

# VALLEY FARMER.

A Monthly Journal of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education and Domestic Economy  
Adapted to the wants of the people of the Mississippi Valley.

VOL. V. ST. LOUIS, MAY, 1853. No. 5.

## The Valley Farmer.

**WOODWARD & ABBOTT, PUBLISHERS.**  
Office, corner Fourth and Chestnut streets,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

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Editor's office and Printing office, in Old Postoffice Building, north side of Chestnut street, between Third and Fourth streets, entrance on Old Postoffice Alley.

### TERMS.

THE VALLEY FARMER is published on the first of each month, each number containing 48 large octavo pages (including 12 pages devoted to advertisements of matters of interest to farmers,) and is offered at the following rates:—

Single copy, one year, - - - \$1 00  
Four copies, \$3; seven copies, \$5; Fifteen copies, \$10.  
Payments, in all cases, must be made in advance.—  
Remittances in gold coins, current bank notes, or postage stamps, may be made by mail at our risk.

**AGENTS.**—Postmasters and Merchants throughout the country are authorized to act as Agents, and every friend of the enterprise is respectfully requested to aid in extending its circulation.

**ADVERTISING.**—Advertisements are inserted in the ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT of the Valley Farmer at the following rates:—One insertion of 12 lines, \$1; eve-

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THE JUNE NUMBER OF THE VALLEY FARMER will be the most valuable number that has ever yet been published. It will contain an extra quantity of matter, and will be embellished with several interesting engravings. New subscribers can be supplied to a limited extent with the back numbers from the commencement of the year, or, if they choose to commence with the June number they may have the seven numbers to December for half the price by the year. New clubs for the last half of the year will be received, and additions made to old ones on the usual terms. Shall we not receive a large accession to our list the present month? Come, kind friends, speak a good word for us to your neighbors. We want to just double our circulation between this and the end of the year. If we can do this, we shall make calculations and preparations to present the Valley Farmer to the public in 1854 very much improved and enlarged. The extent and variety of these improvement will depend very much upon the efforts of our friends to increase our circulation during the remainder of the present year. Our list of subscribers ought to be doubled before the expiration of the present volume, and that number again doubled for the commencement of the sixth volume, to be doubled again before its close.

IOWA CITY, March 20, 1855.

To the Editor of the Valley Farmer.

DEAR SIR.—I see in your paper much said about hedging, and no two stories agree. Why it is I cannot tell, but it is so. My object is to know why it takes so long to make a fence, and why so many set it so wide apart. My own opinion is they write without knowing anything about it, or very little. Well, Mr. Editor, I commenced the business ten years ago, while Mr. Overman and many others were asleep, and have been setting some nearly every year since. I got my plants from near Boston, at a cost of \$15 per thousand, and as I was taking my old country neighbor's opinions how they should be set I set them 16 inches apart, let them grow one year, then hacked them at the ground on one side, and bent them down one way, and I hardly have a fence yet with all the care I could take. The next year I could get no plants; eight years ago I got plants at \$12 per thousand. I did not like my first plan, so I set in two rows 12 inches apart and the rows 8 inches apart. I then cut three years near the ground to make it thick and it is a good fence, but only for three years past. I followed this plan till three years ago, but not being satisfied waiting so long for a fence I set some 6 inches in one row, some 5 inches; and have let it grow up to four feet, then I cropped and that is the best fence I have growing on my farm. Two years ago I thought I could make a fence in two years by setting closer, so I set my plants 4 to 4 1-2 inches apart in one row 40 rods long, but being in latitude nearly 43 my plants killed nearly to the ground the first year and that kept me back some, but still I intend taking the wood fence away as soon as I get home, for I have wheat on one side and pasture on the other and will not turn into my pasture till the middle of June next and am satisfied I can do so, for the second winter never has killed my plants more than 12 inches down. Well, Mr. Editor, I find in No. 12, Vol. 4, 412th page a piece headed Osage Orange Hedges on Railways, the person writing that piece never has raised a hedge, but he is afraid it may choke out some of the plants. How to treat such men's writings I hardly know. I think he don't know much about Osage Orange for

hedging or he never would say choke out once, for it will grow no thicker 4 inches than it will 12 inches, and if it kills out in this country 12 inches is certainly will two feet, so let every henge planter think of this, and every thinking man who has anything to do with the Osage.

As to the hedge on railroads, if planted close it will answer a fine purpose. I see many Osage advertisements since I left home, they all go in for planting closer than formerly and on the one row system, but don't say anything about the soil in the West the farmers have to plant in. I should like them to give their experience and not their opinions as they nearly all done.

Well, Mr. Editor, I expect to bring my family to the West in June next and if my practical farming is worth its room in your columns you can have it with pleasure, but my theory in farming is poor as I believe in practical nearly altogether.

Yours truly,

A FRIEND TO THE WEST.

For the Valley Farmer.

#### Suggestions.

MR. ABBOTT:—You may publish the following suggestions for what they are worth:

**Seed Corn.**—Select the heaviest and soundest ears you can find. If any of your neighbors have a better variety than yours, or raised more to the acre, you would do well to obtain from them. If you want your corn to come up quickly, and be unmolested by squirrels, crows and birds while young, then put about a bushel of corn in a tub, pour on two or three gallons of boiling water; while hot stir in a quart of tar, let it cool and soak a half or a whole day, then drain off the water and stir in enough dry ashes, or Plaster Paris, to keep the grain from sticking together. I know that corn prepared as above, will come up in four or five days and that squirrels &c. will not interrupt it.

**The Valley Farmer.**—Do not let the numbers be destroyed as is too frequently the case. As fast as you receive them fasten them together with tape or any thing else that will answer. At the end of the year have them substantially half bound. You will then have a neat volume filled with valuable knowledge which will always be ready to be consulted.

At any rate fasten them together. This is much better than to let the numbers go to destruction. If you take any other agricultural journal treat in the same manner.

**Receipt Book.**—Procure a blank book worth 75c or \$1. Enter in it from time to time such receipts, cures, suggestions, &c., as you hear well recommended. Also various other matters pertaining to agriculture, domestic economy and so on, that you may wish to remember. In the fore part have an index so that you can find any article without much trouble.

**Contributions.**—I want to see more original articles in the Farmer. Nearly every subscriber knows something that would interest us, and which is not generally known. Come sirs, wake up, and let us hear from more of you. But few of us farmers are critics, therefore do not be afraid to let your 'light shine.' Bad spelling and inelegant language are overlooked when something useful is communicated.

Respectfully,

SOL. D. CARUTHERS.

Kincaid, Mo.

**REMARKS—Contributions.**—We respond, most heartily, to the suggestions of Mr. Caruthers. Why is it that our friends, generally, are so backward about writing? We have often invited and urged them to favor us with the productions of their pens, yet they will not write for their paper. Now one of the most common objections which our good friends tell us they hear from their neighbors, when they ask them to subscribe for the Valley Farmer, is, 'Oh, I don't want it; I know more about farming than these city folks do.' Now meet them with the assurance that all this is granted; but that the value of the Valley Farmer does not depend upon what 'them city folks know,' but upon the fact that some 500 or 1000 intelligent farmers scattered about in the Great Valley, are constantly using it as a medium to communicate to their friends and brother farmers the results of their experiences and their modes of farming, treating stock and cultivating fruit. If such an answer could be given to those objections how completely would they be put to silence. And why may it not be? We firmly believe that we have among our present list of subscribers at least 500 men fully competent to the task of writing

at least one article yearly which would be not only creditable to themselves but useful and interesting to the great body of readers of the Valley Farmer. We do not profess to know much; but we do desire to have intelligent, practical men send us the productions of their pens for publication.

**RAILROAD ENTERPRISE IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND IOWA.**—Our up country friends are going along famously with their railroad enterprises. Eighteen months ago we passed over the route of the road spoken of in the following extract from a family letter received a few days since. At that time the project of this road was talked of, but its construction was looked upon as a thing in the far distant future; and the idea of bridging the Father of Waters at that point had scarcely entered the head of any one, except a few chimerical geniuses who were always conjuring up some foolish notion! Well, we had some excellent chances to buy land there then which will be quadrupled in value the moment the cars commence running over the road; but we didn't buy any—and are living examples of the truth of the proverb that 'When it rains porridge some people's dishes are always up-bottomwards.' But here is the extract:

'Business is better than ever before; it is gitting to be rail road lines. In a few words I will state that the Mississippi and Rock River junction Railroad [branching from the Illinois Central near its junction with the Aurora and Chicago, running nearly due west to Fulton on the Mississippi, and constituting the shortest possible connection between Chicago and the Mississippi river] is progressing finely. The leading men of the Michigan Central, the Aurora Extension, and the Illinois Central have taken \$405,000 of stock, which is \$5,000 more than half. A new Board of Directors will be chosen May 1st, when the little big men of Whitesides will be replaced by the great big bugs of Wall street. The grading is nearly done from Fulton to the bluff, and the cars will run to Union Grove by September. In two years we shall have a direct communication to Chicago. The contract is also let to build a railroad from Lyons, Iowa [directly opposite Fulton] to Iowa City, thence to Council Bluffs. The Engineers are on the route, and work will be commenced in a few days. If you should happen up this way in 18 months you will see the abutments for a bridge across the "Father of Waters," which will be 80 feet above high water.'

## The Season, Crops, &amp;c.

'Our spring,' says our cotemporary of the Brunswicker, 'like our winter deserves great praise—and is just forward enough for all utilitarian purposes. The fruit trees, peach, plum, cherry and apple are all in bloom—with the most flattering promise of an abundant fruit yield. The wheat crops, which looked so bad in the early part of the year, on account of having no snow, and which the farmers were threatening in some cases to plow up are greening and expanding under the genial weather of the last few weeks. These are great times for the agriculturist, and all hands are very busy in the fields.'

From every direction our ears are cheered with the like words of encouragement. We do not recollect when we have witnessed a more propitious spring. With enough of rain to bring forward the grass rapidly, there has been enough of dry weather to enable the farmers and gardeners to seed their grounds early, and having had no frosts to destroy the early germs, we have now a prospect of abundance of fruit and a bountiful harvest of all kinds of grain. It is also, we believe a season of unusual health throughout the country. Stimulated by high prices, plenty of money, and the great improvements going on all over the country, bringing the producers and consumers nearer together, the farmers are prosecuting their labors with joyful hearts and thankful spirits.

Now, then, is time to push forward the schemes of agricultural improvement. While all is prosperous let those who wish to have a County Agricultural Society formed, agitate the matter, let improved stock be introduced, and last but not least, induce your neighbors who has not done it to subscribe for the Valley Farmer. No farmer, as times are now, can say that he is too poor to pay a dollar or seventy-five cents for the best agricultural paper in the West, and the Mississippi Valley.

The country resident has pleasure at every season; but in none, perhaps, has he more than in the month of May. All nature seems as if enjoying the return of spring; the spirits are excited, and we feel more than usually disposed to be pleased with all around us, and as the farmer contemplates his ample fields

where soon will wave the golden grain. He should not forget Him who gives both seed time and harvest,—the early and the latter rain.

But do not neglect the garden. If you have kept up with the season your garden will have been pretty well planted by the commencement of this month, and your work will now in a great measure consist of transplanting, thinning, hoeing and weeding, which should be diligently attended to. There are many farmers who are willing to forgo the luxury of early vegetables to save the trouble of growing them, and make a practice of delaying to sow or plant anything in their gardens until late in the season, till what they consider the more important work of the farm is accomplished, and then they plow, plant, and sow every thing in the same day. They have this advantage, that their ground is in the best possible condition for working, but they deprive themselves for several weeks of refreshing salads and luxurious vegetables, which their more pains-taking neighbors are enjoying.

For the Valley Farmer.

Crystal Springs,  
St. Louis, April 25, 1853. }

EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Esq.,—Sir:—I beg leave through your paper to remind the fruit growers of Missouri that the 'American Pomological Society' is collecting, through State Committees, information from the different States in the Union in relation to the progress of fruit culture, with the view of diffusing knowledge of the best fruits. Of this Society I have the honor to be a Vice President, and Chairman of the State Fruit Committee for Missouri. The second session of this Society was held last September in Philadelphia, their transactions contain many important facts to the fruit growers as the results of experience. It is made the duty of the State Committee to report to the Society, and it will give me great pleasure to receive pomological notes and observations from every part of the State, in order that the experience of Missouri, her progress her difficulties, her wants in fruit culture, may be embodied in a general report. The Spring, so far has been uncommonly fine, and there is at present every prospect of an abundant harvest of every kind of fruit in this vi-

city. I shall be glad to hear of the favorite fruits of Missouri, whether new or old varieties, and where practicable to receive specimens as they ripen that they may be examined by the Committee.

I observe also that it is made my duty to receive any contributions which the friends of the lamented DOWNING are disposed to make to aid in the erection of a suitable monument to his memory. It is not necessary for me to say a word for one who has done so much to promote rural art and taste, to ameliorate the fruits of America, and to stimulate Horticulture. The memory of his eminent and beautiful virtues is deep in the heart of every one who is so happy as to be acquainted with his works. I am, very respectfully yours,

THOS. ALLEN.

**TO STOP A RUNAWAY HORSE.**—The terrible accident which happened last week in Boston, from the running away of a horse, frightened by the approach of a locomotive, has set inquiry to work to find out the best mode of preventing such a catastrophe in similar cases. A correspondent of the Boston Transcript, who has observed the mode adopted in Moscow and St. Petersburg, thinks it altogether better than Newal's now plan of the movable whiffle tree, which lets the animal clear off from the vehicle, if disposed to run away. The Russian plan is as follows:

Around the horse's neck near the neck-strap, is placed a cord with a running knot. To this slip-noose is attached a pair of reins.—on gentleman's horses generally of silk cord, about the size of a pipstern—which always lies thrown over the dash-board ready to be seized at once. When a horse starts and becomes unruly, the gentleman takes up this cord and tightens the horse's throat so that he cannot breathe. The most furious horse stops almost instantly, but he will not fall or kick. I have seen many such reins upon high spirited horses, even in common common city droshkies.—*N. Y. Express.*

**THE NEW YORK HORSE MARKET.**—The weekly transactions at the New York horse market are estimated by the New York Agricultor to amount to \$60,000 or to upwards of \$3,000,000 for the year. In this calculation the sales are put at 300 horses per week, of the average value of \$200. The stables last week contained 950 horses horses, which is about the usual number. It is said that horses are generally 10 per cent higher than three years ago. Very few, compared with the whole number, are sold for less than \$100.

### Japanese Gardeners.

The gardeners of Japan display the most astonishing art. The plum-tree, which is a great favorite, is so trained and cultivated that the blossoms are as large as those of dabbins. Their great triumph is to bring both plants and trees into the compass of the little garden attached to the houses in the cities. With this view, they have gradually succeeded in dwarfing the fig, plum and cherry trees and the vine, to a stature so diminutive as scarcely to be credited by an European; and yet these dwarf trees are covered with blossoms and leaves. Some of the gardens resemble pictures in which nature is skillfully modeled in miniature—but it is living nature! Meylan whose work on Japan was published in Amsterdam in 1830, states that the Dutch agent of commerce at Nagasaki was offered 'a snuff box, one inch in thickness and three inches high, in which grow a fig-tree, a bamboo and a plum-tree in bloom.'

The expedition fitted out by our government to restore to this wonderful island a few of its shipwrecked mariners, will, it is hoped, enable us to obtain some further insight into its hidden mysteries than have yet been revealed to Yankee eyes. Who knows what may be the power of kindness in opening their closed ports, and soothing their savage breasts? The botanical results which must follow will be delightful.—*Western Hor. Review.*

**TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS.**—A good article on that subject urges (what we have long since endeavored to enforce) 'that the roots while out of the ground, should be moist—that they should never for a moment even become dried during the process of transplanting.' Hence a rainy day is recommended in all cases, and especially where the roots are denuded. A few experiments are given. A long screen of Arbor-vitæ were set out in a stormy week, with the sod on. Six were set aside in a tub of water—four were left exposed to a drying wind.—These four only died, out of two hundred and ten. The six, after three weeks neglect in the water, all survived. Again, fifty Norway Spruces, were set out on a moist day. One, by mistake, was left, and received a few hours of sunshine—this only died. We have succeeded well with some sorts, brought long distances, by insisting on the instant immersion of the roots in water, as soon as up—packing in wet moss, kept soaked with water—the roots plunged is soon as received, and laid in—and again mudded, and the earth well settled with water, when transplanted. Removing plenty of earth on the roots—an infallible mode, besides preserving all small fibres, keeps the roots constantly moist.—*Exchange.*

## AN ACT,

*To incorporate the Missouri State Agricultural Society.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

§ 1. There is hereby established and incorporated a Society, to be known and designated by the name and style of the Missouri State Agricultural Society, and by that name and style shall have perpetual succession, and by the name and style aforesaid shall have power to contract and be contracted with, to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended in all courts and places and in all matters whatsoever, and shall in like manner have authority, to have and use a common seal and the same at their pleasure to change and alter, and may also make, ordain, establish and put in execution such by-laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, as shall be proper and necessary for the good government of said Society and the prudent and efficient management of its affairs, *Provided*, the said by-laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, shall not be contrary to the provision of this charter, nor to the laws and constitution of this State or of the United States.

§ 2. In addition to the powers above enumerated, the Society shall by its name and style aforesaid, have power to purchase and hold any quantity of land not exceeding twenty acres, and may sell and dispose of the same at pleasure. The said real estate shall be held by said Society for the sole purpose of erecting enclosures, buildings and other improvements calculated and designed for the meeting of the Society and for an exhibition of various breeds of horses, cattle, mules and other stock, and all agricultural, mechanical and domestic manufactures and productions, and for no other purposes. And it is further enacted, that if from any cause said Society shall ever be dissolved or fail to meet within the period of five consecutive years, then the real estate, held by it, together with all the buildings and appurtenances belonging to said real estate, shall be sold as lands are now sold by execution and the proceeds deposited in the State Treasury, subject to the control of the General Assembly.

§ 3. An annual meeting of the members of the Society shall be held on the first Monday of October annually, at the City of Boonville.

§ 4. The fiscal, prudential and other concerns of the Society shall be under the control of a President and seven Vice Presidents, a corresponding Secretary, a recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be styled a Board of Directors, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the members of said Society. The

said officers shall hold their office for one year, and until their successors are duly chosen, and shall have power to fill all vacancies in said Board that may happen during their period of office.

§ 5. For the purpose of carrying into effect this act, M. M. Marmaduke, of Saline county, is hereby appointed President of this Society; James S. Rollins, of Boone county, Nathaniel Leonard, of Cooper county, Dabney C. Garth, of Randolph county, Roland Hughes of Howard county, Jas. C. Anderson of Callaway county, Camm Seay, of Osage county, Vice Presidents. James L. Milnor, of Cole county, corresponding Secretary; Joseph L. Stephens, of Cooper county, Recording Secretary, and Wm. H. Trigg, of Cooper county, Treasurer; who shall call the first meeting of the Society at the City of Boonville, and who are hereby authorized to solicit and receive subscriptions to said Society as hereinafter specified.

§ 6. The members of this Society shall be composed of such persons as shall pay the sum of five dollars annually to the Treasurer, and such persons shall be members only for the year, for which they shall have paid the amount aforesaid.

§ 7. The members of the Society, by a majority of the votes present, shall determine in what amount, and on what subjects the funds of the Society shall be awarded as premiums at the exhibition succeeding their meeting, of which notice shall be given in some newspaper printed in the city of Boonville, and in such other papers, as the society Shall determine.

§ 8. There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one thousand dollars annually, for the space of four years; to be paid on or before the first day of October of each year, to the Treasurer of said Society, on a requisition on the Auditor of public accounts, signed by the President and Recording Secretary of said Society, which said sum shall be used only for the purpose of paying premiums, and for no other purposes, whatsoever. And it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to deposit in the Auditor's office a statement annually, of the expenditures of said Society.

§ 9. No compensation shall be allowed to any officers of this Society for their services, except to the Corresponding Secretary for his actual expenses, and to the Recording Secretary, and the amount allowed to the latter shall in no case exceed thirty dollars per annum, and no part or such compensation, shall be taken from the fund appropriated by the State.

§ 10. Society may, by a majority of the votes present at any annual meeting, prescribe

the duties of, and require bond or security from any of its officers.

§ 11. In case of the failure or inability to serve of any of the persons, mentioned in the fifth section of this Act, the Governor is hereby authorized, to appoint some suitable person or persons, to fill the vacancies thus occasioned; and the said persons herein named, or thus appointed, as above mentioned, shall not be required to pay their subscription of five dollars, before they shall have authority to act in the organization of this Society. This Act to take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 24th, 1853.

MISSOURI.

#### OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE.

I, John M. Richardson, Secretary of State, hereby certify the foregoing is a correct copy of the origin roll on file in my office of an act passed by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, entitled, 'An Act to incorporate the Missouri State Agricultural Society.'

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and the seal of said office; done at the office of the Secretary of State, in the City of Jefferson, this 21st March, 1853.

JOHN M. RICHARDSON.

From the Alton Telegraph.

#### Gardening and Horticulture.

Lord Bacon, the great master of human learning, in an essay upon gardening and horticultural pursuits, in his quaint, old-fashioned way, remarks, 'when ages grow to civility and elegance, men come to build stately, sooner than garden finely, as if gardening were not the greater perfection.' In his estimate, Lord Bacon is correct,—the cultivation of this beautiful art is the surest indication which can be afforded of a nation's civilization and refinement. The mere luxury of gold and jewels and architectural display, which adorn stately mansions and palaces, exhibit far less perfection of art, and a far meaner standard of morals and intellectual worth, than the elegant and innocent pleasures of floral and landscape gardening. The engrossing pursuits of artificial life grow dull and tedious, the busy marts of trade and commerce exhaust the energies, and the feverish paths of politics and ambition disgust us, but the pure and refined enjoyment of waving fields, green landscapes, and diversified flowers and shrubbery, refreshes the spirits, subdues the passions and makes buoyant and better the heart. These are pleasures which do not corrode, joys that never fade.

We are surprised that so few of our readers pay attention to the cultivation of ornamental shrubbery and the beautifying of gardens and lawns. The trouble is so small, the pleasure so great, and the effect so beautiful, that all

who have even a small patch of ground might be partakers. The cultivation of flowers is a pursuit of beauty and innocence, of amusement and instruction, and is open wide to every one. The poor man may not be able to display it upon so extended a scale as the rich one, but he may evince as delicate and refined a taste, and share equally in its pure enjoyments. In all ages it has constituted the favorite amusement of the best and highest intellects; and we ask no surer evidence of goodness of heart and refinement of feelings, however much they may be soiled by the world, than the manifestation of a taste for horticultural avocations.

In this country peculiar inducements invite the people to the cultivation of this beautiful art, as poetry, painting or sculpture. Here the face of nature is prolific and interesting, diversified and various; and she brings forth from her fruitful womb a thousand beauties and benefits unknown in other lands and latitudes. The United States comprehends within its limits every variety of soil and climate, and its vegetation as disclosed to the eye of the botanist, exhibits upon every green field, mountain slope and fruitful valley, a world of wonders, which the eastern continent has nothing to compare with. These charms of hill and dale, of prairie and woodland, set out by nature, are rapidly falling before the woodman's axe, and the onward sweep of commerce. The hammer and noise of busy multitudes are fast clearing away and settling up 'the waste places,' and unless popular taste for gardening and horticulture comes to the rescue, the wild flowers and native shrubbery, which surrounds us, will ere long be crowded out and exterminated to make way for the monuments of civilization. A taste for ornamental shrubbery is to some extent springing up among us; and many private gardens give abundant evidence of the success of individual efforts; but still there is a wide margin for improvement and cultivation. Now above all others, is the time to enter upon the study and practice of this beautiful and classic art, peaceful and lovely in its ways—pure and uncontaminated in its joys. The spring time is open upon us, and vegetation under the influence of warm showers and genial sunshine, is budding out with more than ordinary beauty and freshness. It courts, it appeals to man for culture and attention—it will repay him back a thousand fold in assuaging grief, moderating ambition, sanctifying love and making him wiser and better and more hopeful. It has been beautifully remarked, that flowers are the poetry of earth, as stars are the poetry of Heaven. There is a sentiment and a morality in their beauty and fragrance more eloquent than the tongue of the preacher, and more fascinating than the dreams of the poet.

There is a religion too in their cultivation, refreshing and purifying to the spirit. It raises the heart of man from the objects of temporary interest and places it on those of eternal hope.

#### THE LARGEST GYPSUM FIELD IN THE WORLD.

—George G. Shumard, of this city, in his speech on Monday evening last, before the railroad committee, stated that the largest Gypsum field in the world, lies about 300 miles west of this place, in the plains, explored by Captain Marcy last year, extending over an area of 300 miles north and south, east and west. The strata in some places is 20 feet thick, of the purest kind, white and in some instances transparent. He said, that there is a sufficient quantity of it to supply the whole world, and would employ a railroad in its transportation one hundred years. Gypsum, when burnt, becomes what is known by the name of Plaster of Paris—a very valuable article. Dr. Shumard was with Capt. Marcy last year, in exploring the head waters of Red River, acting in the capacity of physician and geologist. The railroad to the Pacific, through from the Mississippi by Fort Smith and Albuquerque, will pass immediately through this great field of Gypsum. One important item in favor of the Fort Smith route. A few more of the same sort will be mentioned in due time, and we hope the public will take due notice thereof.—*Fort Smith Herald*.

**ASPARAGUS.**—Next to green peas, asparagus is the most generally admired garden esculent raised. Every farmer should have a bed of it, to supply the wants of his own family, it being a very easily propagated vegetable, and one that is almost certain to do well in any soil possessing the attributes of fruitfulness and natural warmth. Mr. Pond, the celebrated horticulturist, gives the following directions for its cultivation:

'In the month of April, or when the frost is fairly out of the ground, select a spot sufficiently large to plant the number of roots intended. If the plantation is to be large, and intended to supply the market, the ground should be plowed to a good depth; if for a common kitchen garden, it should be trenched to the depth of fourteen inches. Make the surface of the bed level; after this is performed, proceed to mark places, to dig trenches for your roots; they should be two and a half feet apart; then turn the soil out, 12 inches wide and 12 inches deep, laying it up in ridges between the trenches. After this is done, throw in four or five inches of manure; level it, and add about one inch of soil on the surface, scraped from the sides of the trenches; level this also, and all is ready for planting.'

The roots taken from the old bed are better

to propagate than the seed, as they produce sooner, and require much less care and trouble in cultivation. The plan I have pursued is the following: In autumn I dig my trenches either in green sward land, or that which has been cultivated—making the trenches eighteen inches deep by twenty-four wide, and filling them within six inches of the top with good old manure or compost. On the top of this I place four inches of garden mould, and plant my roots or slips six inches apart, covering them with two inches of soil which has been previously saturated with house ley, or salt.

A sprinkling of salt is given early in the morning, and repeated at intervals of a fortnight throughout the season. Salt is an indispensable agent in the cultivation of asparagus, which is a saline marine plant, and cannot be brought to perfection without it. An occasional dressing of chip manure or compost, formed of pond manure and forest scrapings, is highly advantageous. If the beds become weedy, pour on pickle. It will destroy the weeds and grasses, without injuring the asparagus. All blanching of the spires, I consider injurious; they are thereby rendered more tender, it is true, but not sweet.

**MISSOURI MINERALS.**—There are now lying at our office door two huge blocks of iron ore from the Pilot Knob. They weigh about six thousand pounds each, and have been prepared and forwarded by the company working the Pilot Knob iron works, for the exhibition at the World's Fair in New York. They are curiosities in their way. It is probable that few persons have ever seen such a mass of metal, (about eighty per cent.) in one body, and we believe there is not a mine or deposit of iron ore in the world that can equal these specimens. Yet they are but drops in the ocean—they are but pin heads to the immense mass of ore at the Pilot Knob and Shepherd Mountain. They are curiosities of themselves, but those who have seen the immense mass at the Knob well know how short they fall, in size or weight, of the numerous massive blocks there. One of the specimens is of the character of ore from which iron and common castings are made. The other is a specimen of ore, now extensively shipped to various quarters, in its primitive form for the purpose of being manufactured into steel. Tests, made not only in this country but in England, show that as good, if not a better, article of steel can be made from it than any other ore yet discovered, and at less expense.—*St. Louis Republican*, 6th.

**AGRICULTURAL PROFESSORSHIP.**—A Professorship for the benefit of those who intend to become farmers is about to be established at the Literary Institution at Fairfax, Vt. There

will be an effort made to endow this Professorship with the sum of \$20,000, and to make its benefits available by the practical farmers of the vicinity. To this end instructions will be given in those branches of Natural Science connected with Agriculture, lectures will be delivered and apparatus will be furnished for experiment.

The Albany Evening Journal gives an account of a most wonderful cow, owned by a lady in that vicinity:—From November 11th to February 18th, last past, there was made from her milk one hundred and three pounds of butter, although to keep her calf well fed, the milk was skimmed before all the cream which would have risen had time to do so. In this way it is thought that one pound of butter per week was lost—making the fair yield 117 pounds. Her feed most of the time consisted of the gleanings of a pure pasture, and four quarts of buckwheat bran a day. Her value is thus stated:—117 pounds of butter, \$29, 25; 1,432 quarts skimmed and butter milk, \$28 65—total, \$57 86 in 100 days!

Never, 'since the flood,' the farmers say, was there a better prospect for all kinds of fruit, and for good crops than the present time. The soil as it is turned up by the plow is as mellow as an apple, and so well pulverized that a harrow is hardly necessary for Hemp or any other kind of seed. Our fine soil differs in that respect with any other with which we have been acquainted. The best Kentucky lands, we are told, will elud, but it is not common here where the ground is anything like dry. If present prospects are not overthrown by heavy and continued rains, or heavy frosts, the year 1853 will be one of plenty in this part of Missouri, and this fall will be the best time for persons to move to the country that has been for many years. The great improvements in building, fencing and general preparations for comfort and convenience which are going on in the country are evidences that our people begin to appreciate the value of their lands and their homes.—[Lex. Clay Co. Trib.

#### MANNY'S REAPING AND MOWING MACHINE.

We received, but too late for insertion in our advertising department, the following advertisement, which we insert this month in the body of the work for the reason that the advertisers are anxious to have it before the people at as early a day as possible. We have heretofore often spoken of Manny's machines and their success at the great Geneva trials, and at other places. The farmers of Missouri will do well to give them a trial:

### S. N. & W. H. PURSE, MANUFACTURERS OF MANNY'S PATENT ADJUSTABLE NORTHERN ILLINOIS REAPER & MOWER;

#### First Premium Machine for 1853.

Awarded the FIRST PREMIUM for Mowing, and the second for Reaping, at the N. Y. State Fair, in the great trial at Geneva, N. Y., in July, in competition with ELEVEN other machines:—awarded a silver medal at the Ohio State Fair for the best Reaper and Mower—and received the highest award at the Vermont and Michigan State Fairs, for the best reaping and mowing machine.

The true merit of this Machine has given it a great triumph over all others, and being a perfect combination of Reaper and Mower, it comes to the Farmer with a double value, and it is clearly demonstrated to be THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL COMBINATION OF REAPER AND MOWER.

As a Mower it is as simple and perfect as though constructed expressly for mowing, and as a reaper, it is simple and perfect as if constructed for reaping only; the only change from one plan to the other is to remove or insert a loose platform.

MACHINES warranted to cut all kinds of grain as well as can be done with the Cradle, and to cut all kinds of grass as well as can be done with the scythe, and to cut flax and millet; also to gather clover, timothy and flax seed, and to be well built, and of good materials. This machine will cut from ten to fifteen acres per day, with two horses, and one person to tend it, when mowing, and two persons when reaping. The cutting apparatus is made perfect with its DOUBLE EDGED SICKLE, and double guards, as fully tested for the last two years, and it is connected with a joint, so as to adjust itself to uneven ground, and by a level at the driver's seat, it can be raised or lowered when moving along, to cut from one inch up to two feet from the ground. All side draft against the team is entirely avoided. Over 200 of these machines were in use the past season, all of which gave the most perfect satisfaction. Price of Machines where made—\$125 cash, or half cash and half credit.—\$135. All orders addressed to the undersigned (who have purchased the right of this State), will meet with prompt attention.

S. N. & W. H. PURSE, Ashley, Pike Co., Mo.

MANNY'S MOWER.—MANNY'S Northern Illinois mower was next tried, and did its work in beautiful style, fully equaling, if not exceeding Ketchum's, cutting a swath over five feet in width. The general opinion was that it was quite easy draught to the horses, but this point could be determined satisfactorily only by the dynamometer, which the committee carefully applied to each machine, the result of which will be embodied in their report. This mower possessed the decided advantage of admitting a quick and easy elevation of the cutting blades, (situated midway between the forward and hind wheel-) on approaching any obstruction.—MANNY'S Illinois Reaper, a slight modification of his Mower, which cut so well upon the meadow, succeeded as well as a reaper.—[Albany Cultivator.

THE FAIR.—We notice that Mr. J. H. Manny, of Illinois, has received the highest premium on his machine as a mower, and the second prize as a reaper. This machine was tried in competition with eleven others, (including the celebrated McCormick and Hussey reapers,) at the great trial at Geneva in July, and before a committee of the State Society. The awards to Mr. Manny's machine, give it a certain triumph over the great World's Fair reapers, and all other implements of the kind. We saw Manny's machine at work a few weeks since near this place, and with which we were highly pleased, and believe it to be fully deserving of all the honors it has received, and hail it as one of the most useful improvements of the age.—[Amsterdam Intelligencer.

MANNY'S MOWER AND REAPER.—At a recent trial at Hooisiek Falls, this machine worked in a most satisfactory manner, both in light and heavy grass, and in grain that was too much lodged as to be easily gathered by hand cutting both as closely and evenly as could be done by the most expert user of the scythe and cradle, and with a rapidity that won the admiration of the numerous farmers assembled to witness the trial.—[Washington County Post.

### The Great Basin.

From an address lately delivered at St. Louis, by Josiah Dent, we clin the following remarks on the area and fertility of the Mississippi Valley, the great corn bin of North America—a region of fertility and progress, that will yet boast of cities whose magnitude will reduce London and Paris to the condition of suburbs. The area of the Mississippi Valley, according to Mr. Dent, is not less than 1,500,000 square miles, more than one-fourth of the entire continent. And such is its general fertility, its freedom from great mountain ranges, or other natural obstacles to its occupation for industrial purposes, that it is probably capable of sustaining as dense a population as now inhabits any considerable portion of the globe. The swamps and low lands along the rivers are all susceptible of drainage, and will be drained and cultivated, as surely as were those of the lower Nile, which for centuries resisted the civilization of ancient Egypt. The wants of an increasing population, and the utilitarian enterprise which distinguishes the present age, will very soon accomplish this result. And even the 'American Desert,' as we have seen, is by no means as sterile as has been generally supposed. Already the population of the States and Territories within this valley, which 50 years ago did not exceed 50,000, has increased to about 12,000,000, or one half of the population of the Union. Were they as densely inhabited as the average of entire Europe, the population would be 106,000,000; as Massachusetts 190,009,000, as Belgium, 571,000,000; as ancient Egypt 682,000,000, or more than two thirds of the present population of the earth. The improvements in agriculture, manufactures, and the mechanic arts, which modern science has developed, have so cheapened and multiplied useful production and the facilities of commerce, that it is difficult, in the present age, to set limits to population as respects its ratio to the superficies of the earth.

With our means of rapid intercommunication, with our improved plows, easy laws, low taxes, corn planters, and reaping machines, we hazard little in saying that the Mississippi Valley is capable of sustaining a larger number of inhabitants, to the square mile, than any portion of the earth's surface that has yet been seeded down with men, women, and industry. The present population, as we have already said, amounts to 12,000,000. To supply the wants of this population, keeps in constant activity an hundred railroads, a thousand miles of lakes, and a river navigation twenty times as great as the distance between London and St. Petersburg. If these twelve millions of inhabitants give employment to all the accessories of commerce, what shall accommodate the vast business which shall flow

from that valley, when its population becomes as that with which Pharaoh pursued Moses when the Israelites set out on the exodus for the Promised Land? Let us pause and reflect.

### Progressive Farming.

It is gratifying to notice each returning spring, an increasing interest on the part of our farmers in scientific agriculture. Formerly they were content with the old roots, seeds and grain to which they had been accustomed all their lives. Latterly we find them seeking far and near, the choicest seed for sowing and planting.

In fruits, too they are making great advancement. Every day or two our dealers are thronged with purchasers from the prairies. It is now universally understood that a good orchard of apples, peaches, pears, &c., is a source of great profit. A crop of fruit may be marketed at a trifling cost, and its production is attended with more pleasure and less hard work than any other product. All about this region we see nurseries setting out, and experience shows, that taking all things into account, there is no better country in the world for the cultivation of fruit trees.

In cattle, horses and sheep our farmers are equally solicitous to secure the best breeds. Every year makes its mark in this department. All Illinois wants is a perfection of its qualities of stock, a matter which has been too much neglected. If the present awakened interest continues, Illinois will soon surpass every other grazing country in America. We daily hear of importations of the choicest blooded animals, which are distributed thro' different portions of the State.

The introduction of improved farming implements and labor saving machines is also equally noticeable. Threshing machines, reapers, horse rakes, straw and fodder cutters, winnowing mills, corn shellers, seed drills, &c., &c. find an unbounded market in this State. Our farmers see at a glance that this smooth prairie country, without a stone or a stump dotting its surface, is better adapted than any other to the application of a vast majority of those implements. Hence there is and must be a greater demand for them here than elsewhere.

These facts are exceedingly gratifying, since we must as a people depend upon agriculture for our wealth, prosperity and progress.—*Springfield Register.*

**SWOLLEN MOUTH**—is a malady which often attacks whole flocks of sheep, and becomes quite fatal. Mr. Morrell states that he had the disease in his flock and cured it immediately by smearing the diseased lips with tar.—*Wool Grower.*

# **St. Louis County Agricultural Society.**

An adjourned meeting of the St. Louis County Agricultural Society was held in the Weld Building, in St. Louis, April 11, the President in the chair.

The President distributed several kinds of Farm and Garden seeds among the members present, which were sent him from the Patent Office at Washington.

On recommendation of the Board of Managers it was

*Resolved*, That the first Fair of the St. Louis County Agricultural Society be held next October, to commence on the third Wednesday of the month, and last for three days.

*Resolved*, That the Farmers, Gardeners and Mechanics be invited to prepare their stock, fruit and agricultural implements for exhibition at that time.

*Resolved*, That when this Society adjourn it adjourn to meet at the Prairie House, at such time as shall suit the convenience of Hon. Edward Bates to deliver an address before the Society, at which time and place the owners of breeding animals in the county be requested to exhibit the same.

On motion of Mr. C. L. Hunt, it was

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be published.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

THOS. SKINKER, Pres.

WM. M. PLANT, Sec.

For the Valley Farmer.

## **Growth of the Cotton Wood.**

The rapidity of growth of the Cotton Wood tree is astonishing. There is a tree in Carroll county, which the owner says is not more than 13 years old, and he thinks but 12, which is now about two feet in diameter. A friend informs us, that he measured one in Whiteside county which was over 50 inches in circumference a foot and a half from the ground, which the owner asserted was but 5 or 6 years old. Col. Fremont, we think, calls the Cotton Wood the tree of the desert, as he found it flourishing in all situations. It is valued by steamboats for wood, and is said to make fair fine boards, and excellent blacksmith's coal. The two trees mentioned above probably show more than ordinary rapidity of growth, as they

were isolated, standing in very rich ground that has been constantly tilled. Our friend says, 'I know of a field of 8 or 10 acres of them, which are 7 or 8 years old, and where they are not too thick, are near a foot through and the whole field has quite a forest-like appearance.' We would suggest to those living on our open prairies the experiment of cultivating this tree. Will it grow readily from the shoot, like the willow?

I cut the above from the Galena Gazette. I have often noticed trees standing in favorable situations, which almost grew out of one's knowledge in a few seasons. A Cotton Wood tree in my door-yard last summer sent out a shoot eight feet six inches long, and three and a half inches in circumference.

I have a black Locust grove near my house, three years old, in which the trees are from 16 to 19 feet high, and from 8 to 9 1-2 inches in circumference. The grove forms quite a wind breaker; the 'birds of the air lodge in the branches thereof,' and besides it is so dense that the chickens seek there a covert from the hawks. To me it looks strange that a family will live, or rather stay, on an open prairie for years without a tree about their dwelling, exposed to the bleak winds of winter, when so little labor would make a pleasant grove which would add much to their comfort.

Rock River.

## **Is it All Superstition?**

The children of this generation are wiser to a certainty, than the men and women of the generations which have immediately preceded them. For instance, see how rapidly we are jumping backwards over the 'dark ages' of the last one or two hundred years to the enlightened period when the worthy inhabitants of Salem and all along shore, hung, burned and drowned the witches. Our 'rappers' and 'mediums' of the present day are not a whit behind the witches of those days; indeed, we think they are a little ahead; and we may look confidently for 'the good time coming,' when learning and experience, judgment, skill and discretion, will be cast aside as obsolete ideas, and all transactions of business or pleasure will be conducted according to the directions of the spirits. How convenient it will be! Does a merchant

need of all the labor of taking account of what he has, making memorandums of what he has not, visiting the market, wish to replenish his stock of goods? No spending days in examining, pricing and comparing. He has but to place a pen, ink and paper before a medium, and forthwith he has full directions not only what to buy, but where to buy it. Are you sick? No need to send for a doctor, the spirits will tell you what you need, and if you follow their directions you will be sure to get well—or die after it.

The belief in the influence of the moon on vegetation has been long registered as a superstition, and many a time has the expression 'planting in the moon' been used in derision of all attempts to maintain that the moon does have a very important influence in the natural world. But there always have been and still are many well informed persons who firmly believe in this influence, and adduce very stubborn facts in favor of it. A friend placed on our table a few weeks since an article cut from an eastern paper on this subject, which accidentally was mislaid. We are sorry for it, because we designed publishing it.

In the last Report for the Patent Office we find an interesting paper on Well digging, which we publish; and which is the subject we intended to write upon when we commenced this article. The writer as will be seen assumes that what is usually termed divining or conjuring for water, or finding out with a willow twig where to dig for water, is justly entitled to be termed a science, as it is founded upon philosophical principles. We have seen many alleged applications of this science (if science it is) during our residence in the West. In every instance, we believe, water has been found, at a greater or less depth; but could it not have been found without the divining rod? There may be something in it, and we recollect an incident which came to our knowledge many years ago, in a section of country where water conjuring had not been heard of, which seems to have a bearing on it. We were but a boy at the time; but we recollect the circumstances very

well. We do not know how it came to pass, but know that a very general impression prevailed that a certain field contained a deposit of mineral—silver or lead; and it was said that a stranger had examined it by the very means described by the writer in the Patent Office paper, and had pointed out the exact locality of the deposit. The work of digging was commenced and regularly prosecuted until at the depth of a few feet, a spring of living water was reached which was so abundant as to put a stop to all further search for the precious treasures. The water was the best in the vicinity and in a location where it was not supposed that water could be obtained except by digging to a great depth.

From the Patent Office Report for 1852.

### Well Digging.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WIS., Jan. 1, '52.

Dear Sir: Your Agricultural Circular was duly received, but I have been unable to take the necessary time to reply until now; and even now I must confine my remarks to but one topic—that is, *well-digging*. There is, however, no one subject of more importance to the farmer who has not living, running water on the surface; and no part of the operation is of more intrinsic importance than that of ascertaining where to dig, which will be the chief topic of consideration in this communication.

I am aware of the difficulty of convincing some men that things may be *facts*, which they cannot understand the why and wherefore of, or comprehend the reason for. And I know as well that the same skepticism would exist as to their own existence, and as to a thousand other facts, the reason for which we do not comprehend any better, or more clearly, than that in reference to finding water under ground; but because they are common, and of every-day occurrence, we never think of the why and wherefore of their existence. They are matters of fact, and we should be regarded as candidates for some lunatic asylum if we questioned them.

True philosophy does not inquire for the *reasons* for a thing before it admits the fact of its existence, but ascertains first if it be a fact; and if it is so, then to inquire after the reasons for it. This will be the course pursued in this essay. That water runs in veins in the earth is a fact now so universally admitted, or rather known, that no one pretends to doubt it; and it is equally well known that if, in digging a well, the digger hits upon the

vein, he gets good spring or living water.— But the question is, how are we to ascertain where to dig in order to strike this vein? or is it a fact that some men, and even women, can tell, by any means, where water can thus be found? It will be admitted that, if it is so, it is of more importance to any dry or springless portion of the country than turnpikes, plank, or railroads; for what is the soil worth without living water? It will also be admitted that, if Nature or Nature's God has provided an ample supply of so useful and necessary an element as water, running in all directions in the bowels of the earth, the work would be incomplete, and man and beast might suffer, or a great portion of the earth must be left a barren waste, unless the same goodness which provided the supply also provided means by which its location could be ascertained with more certainty than by haphazard digging.— This I take to be reasonable; and if so, reason favors the probability of such a provision. The first point to establish is the fact that some men can direct the well-digger where to strike the vein; and then, secondly, to show the law of nature by which this is done. As to the first point, it must be established by facts in the mouths of competent witnesses. It is done by what is now scientifically called *Bletonism*, which is defined by Webster to be 'the faculty of perceiving and indicating subterraneous springs and currents by sensation; so called from one *Bleton*, of France, who possessed this faculty.' Some call it *divining*, or raising the *divining rod*; some, *water philosophy*; and others, 'water witchery.'

The most ordinary instrument used is a fork, of peach, hazel, or willow, of the last year's growth, so as to be small, slim, and full of sap. The tip ends are placed horizontally in the hands, the palms of which are upward; this brings the fork upward in the shape of an inverted V—thus,  $\Delta$ ; and in the hands of those with whom it will work—for it does not work with every one—this fork-end is attracted by the water, if living spring-water, under ground, but not by dead or standing stagnant water; nor by what is called *seep water*. It is also attracted by silver, iron, or other metals which attract the electric fluid; for electricity is the secret of the matter, after all.— But to the facts:

In 1812 I settled on a springless farm in Ohio, expecting to obtain water by digging a well. A neighbor of mine, who had on an adjoining farm obtained good water only fourteen feet from the surface of the ground, by means of this *Bletonism*, urged me to try the same means. But being of the class who could not, or rather would not, believe in what I could not comprehend, I declined resorting to what, to me, as to others, appeared to be con-

summate nonsense, and I spent my leisure time in the dry time of *three* years in digging, but found no water. At length, despairing of finding water in this way, and having a curiosity to test this new science, I invited a 'water philosopher' to try his skill for me. It is proper to observe that this man was an independent Farmer, a man of intelligence and high moral worth; and as he performed in this matter without fee or reward, I had no possible ground for suspecting any design of humbuggery on his part. And further, he told me that he knew no more of the reason, the why or wherefore, it worked in his hands, while it not in those of others, than I did. By mere accident he discovered that he was 'one of 'em,' and discovering this, he experimented until he discovered this fact—that the rod would be attracted at an angle of  $45^\circ$ , and that from the point at which the attraction commenced to where the attraction was perpendicular, would indicate the depth to dig to reach water.

All this, however—his high character and his explanations—did not remove my doubts. He prepared his peach twig fork, and I placed him over a well which I had dug, and was at this time full of surface or seep water; wishing, if possible, not to loose the labor thus expended. But this seep water had no effect whatever on the rod. The operator then travelled slowly, I keeping my eye upon the rod and his hands, to see if the turning of the rod was not from the motion of his own hands. At length the butt or fork end of the rod went down; the operator holding his hands upon the rod so tightly, to prevent its slipping, that they turned purple, and I could plainly see that the twig ends of the rod did not slip or turn round in his hand, but that the twigs actually twisted so that the bark broke and gave way. When I saw this I gave it up. What I saw with my own eyes, and that too, against strong prejudices, I could not doubt. He selected the point where the dip of the rod was the strongest, and measured the depth by the  $45^\circ$  rule, and I stuck the stake to dig by; and in the ensuing autumn when all was dry, I dug, and found the depth, quantity and quality of the water just as he had told me. With such facts before me I could no longer disbelieve, because I had not then ascertained the reasons for it, or the law of nature by which such events were brought about. Shortly after this I saw a statement in the public prints—taken, I believe, from the *Cultivator*, of New York, over the signature of a respectable Quaker of that State—to the following effect: A friend of his called upon him, and, among other things, his farm, its beauty and high state of cultivation, came up as a topic of conversation, and the owner observed that he

would sell it at half its value, because there was no living or spring water on it. His friend inquired, 'Why don't thee dig?' 'I have,' was the reply, 'dug several wells, some of them ninety feet deep, and got nothing but seep water, which is not good.' 'But,' continued his friend, 'why don't thee get a water philosopher to tell thee where to dig?' 'Because I do not believe in such nonsense; I won't believe in anything of the kind for which I can see no good reason, and there is no reason why such a rod will work in one man's hands and not in another's.' But his friend was not to be put off with so stale an argument. 'But thou mayest believe it whether thou canst comprehend it or not, for I have proved it and know it to be true; and if thou wilt get a good philosopher, one who has been proved, and dig where he tells thee, if thou dost not find water I will pay thee all thy expenses.' His friend was so urgent, and withal so liberal, he could do no less in courtesy than try it. He did so, and the operator fixed upon a site near the corner of his house, on the side towards the barn, from which the barn-yard could be easily supplied, and fixed upon twenty feet as the depth to dig. He paid the man his dollar and told him, 'I have called for thee and I will pay thy charges; but I do not believe a word thou sayest, for here and there within a few feet of the place thou hast fixed upon, I have dug ninety feet and found no such spring as thou tellest of; but if I do find it as thou sayest, I will give thee fifty dollars.' The result was, he dug, found water as told, paid the man his fifty dollars, got him to select several other sites on the farm for wells for stock, and published his discovery for the benefit of his fellow-men who might be in like ignorance and prejudice, and as much to their own damage as his was to him.

Some thirty years since, a tract upon this subject, from the pen of the celebrated Adam Clark, fell into my hands, from which, as well as I can recollect, I gathered the following facts: The Doctor, as a Wesleyan Methodist preacher, was stationed in the Guernsey Islands, in the British channel, the inhabitants of which were originally French but now under British rule. He soon discovered that good water was almost a paramount object.—Cisterns had been resorted to, but their supply depended upon the amount of rain, of which, in some seasons, there was a scarcity, and consequent distress among the inhabitants followed.

Now, if there was a place on earth or in the sea where this science was needed, it was here; and if it was humbuggery, this, above most places, was the place to palm it off, and the anxiety of the people to obtain a supply of good water would induce them to forego a few failures before they would give up the pursuit.

The Doctor found things in this situation, and among the members of his flock a man who pretended to, or rather did, tell people where to dig for and obtain good water. But this was too much for the Doctor; he could or would believe in no such humbuggery, and he cited the member to trial for attempting to humbug, or impose upon, the people, which he would not allow.

Upon the trial, the accused proved by several respectable witnesses that he had told them where to dig; that they had done so, and found water as he had predicted. Still the Doctor was not satisfied but that there might be some mistake or accident, if there were no imposition; and the accused should select a spot to dig in his presence, that he might test the matter in person. This was done, and the water found. But lest this might have been an accident, he would have it tried over. It was tried, and again proved true. The Doctor could hold out no longer, and lay claim to the character of a reasonable man. The fact that such things were done by some, and could not be done by others, was established beyond the possibility of a doubt, and as a true philosopher he set about the inquiry as to the reason for such a phenomenon. But not discovering any law of nature therefore, he concluded that it must be a special gift of God to some, for the benefit of the human race.

These events occurred over fifty—say sixty—years ago, when philosophy was less advanced than at present. They happened, also, near the French coast, and among a people of the same language, and in communion with France; and possibly this profession went from Gherney to France; where, being established as a fact, the acute philosophy of France was brought to bear upon it, as to the reason of, and for it, which resulted in the discovery of the agency of the electric fluid in the matter; and the whole is resolved into an established law of nature, though but recently discovered and understood.

A gentleman in the North 'has been examining the subject for many years, and has tried a great variety of experiments, which show that all the phenomena of the rod are governed by the laws of electricity. He tested the rod by the electric machine. When the rod is brought near the positive pole, it is attracted towards it; but if brought towards the negative pole, it is repelled. A silk handkerchief placed between the rod and the water, or the conductor, breaks the connexion, and there is no electric attraction made upon the rod: remove the handkerchief, and the rod is instantly drawn down. All his experiments resulted in this explanation of the phenomena.' The Rev. Mr. Avery, of Holden, some years since, made similar experiments, and

came to the same conclusions. The subject has been thoroughly investigated, and with the same results. In almost every place there are those in whose hands the rod will operate, and men of high intellectual moral worth, and far above deception or trick, are found among them.

The law which governs in this matter is thus explained:

1. That wonderful fluid called electricity is distributed throughout the whole earth, but some bodies generate or imbibe more of it than others. Those that contain more than their natural proportion are said to be *positively*, and those which contain less to be *negatively* charged.

2. One of the established laws of electricity is found in the fact that two bodies, both *positively* or both *negatively* charged, invariably repel each other; while if one is *positively*, and the other *negatively* charged, they uniformly attract each other.

3. It is well known that the best subterranean conductors are beds of ore or native metals, and veins of water. It is their nature to extract the latent fluid from surrounding objects, and absorb it themselves; hence where these exist, there will be the most electricity.

4. In general, the human body is also a good conductor, but there are some exceptions. Some men usually generate or imbibe the negative and positive in such equal quantities as to maintain an equilibrium in their systems: the rod in the hands of such will not be sensibly affected; others are surcharged, and have more than their share, and produce positive electricity. Such it is said, if they have black hair, will, if rubbed in cold weather, emit sparks.

5. An individual containing a very small amount of electricity, or who is highly negatively charged, (and only such can operate,) if he takes the rod in his hands and passes over a surface beneath which there is a stream of water, or a stratum of ore, by the unchanging laws of nature, the rod *must* be affected; and, consequently, a sensation will be produced in him who holds it. The person making the experiment is highly negatively charged—that is, has but little of the fluid in him: the water beneath his feet has absorbed the electricity of the adjacent bodies in the earth: the elastic twig in his hands forms a part of the connexion between the positive and negative poles; and two bodies, the one positively, and the other negatively charged, by a law of nature, always attract each other; and, under such circumstances, most unquestionably the twig will be attracted downward towards the water, and the operator will *feel* it as well as see it.

6. If the experiment is positively charged, like the water below, his system having produced or imbibed a large portion of the latent

fluid by the law already referred to, there will be a repulsion: the twig, instead of bending downward towards the water, will bend backward towards himself, and the result will be equally perceptible.

A recent extract from a French paper gives the description of a man, of high moral and intellectual standing, who is so sensitive to electrical influence that he can tell without a rod or anything in his hands where the veins of water are by the same sensation produced upon the throat as he passes over the earth. The sensation is similar to that felt from a galvanic battery.

The reader may inquire how we are to know whether the attraction is from water or from ore of some kind? The answer, as to most countries is, that the geological character of the ground will generally determine the point. That, however, will not answer in the lead mines of this region. Here the surface presents so different a soil from that of other mineral countries that no law of the books can apply to us. One thing is certain; if it should prove to be mineral, it would probably be valuable; so that nothing would be lost by the experiment. But in some scores of trials for water in this mineral region, by means of the rod, not one, to my knowledge, has failed, or lead to mineral instead of water.

There are numbers of miners among us who depend on the rod to find crevices in the rock under the clay surface. They seek for crevices because lead ore is usually found in them, though there may be, and are, many crevices in which there are no minerals. My observation in this matter leads to the conclusion that a vein of water has stronger attraction for the rod than any of the ores, excepting silver and iron, and that they must exist in considerable quantities to attract equally with water; so that, if the operator should happen to hit on ore, instead of water, there would be no loss. To what depth the electric fluid will attract I am not advised. I have known water to be found in this way from ten to forty feet under the surface, and my impression is that it will reach to a greater depth—possibly to seventy feet.

It is hardly necessary to point out the advantages of this science to the farmer, or its value to every springless farm. The farmer wishing to build, and to have water convenient, will first discover the vein of water, and dig his well. The operator can be tested or proved before the positive pole, or any electric machine, or by having previously found water. It will save time and money lost in haphazard digging, and will add greatly to the comfort of a family to have water at hand; and to make this certain let the water be first discovered, the well dug, and the house then built to suit the situation.

### Man and Horse.

When a horse does little work, we give him less attention—when not worked at all, we know that mischief will result, unless he is well exercised. When a horse is hard worked we know it to be impolite to load its stomach while suffering from fatigue. When a horse comes in from a journey, a groom knows that its health depends on its skin being freed from the dust and perspiration, and also that the animal cannot be comfortable unless cleansed once a day. If its food does not agree with it, the groom varies it in quality or quantity or both. No sensible owner lets his horse drink while in violent perspiration, nor do more than rinse its mouth, but will let it drink its fill about an hour before its meals, neither allowing it to load its stomach with liquid either at meals or when hard work is immediately to follow:

This is all sound physiological treatment, drawn from a watchful observation of the effects of a regulated diet and regimen on the health and capabilities of the animal. How differently man acts to himself. When he is streaming with perspiration, and giving orders for careful attention to his horse, he will walk into a refreshment or even an ice-cream! His diet is regulated by his tastes and cravings; the quantities vary not with his exertion or labor, but with his palatability.—His meals consist of dishes proportionate to the length of his purse. The times of eating depend on business, fashion, or anything but his physical wants. His drink also is taken according to the society he mixes with, and quantity or quality vary only with his palate and means! Those who work least generally fare the richest. The skin of a horse must be kept clean or disease ensues; but the horse's master is heedless of this, and when visited by disease, wonders how it happened! Surely man is the most inconsistent animal on earth!

N. Y. Farmer.

### Tomato or Love Apple.

This vegetable has not been in common use more than a quarter of a century. When first tasted of it is disagreeable to the palate, but if its use is continued it never fails to become one of the most delightful and refreshing articles of food that ever passed mortal lips.—One must learn to love it, and, when he has learned, he loves it dearly. Hence the French call it *pomme d'amour*, or love apple.

The tomato was so disagreeable in the early years of its introduction, it was supposed, by many, that it never would receive a permanent place in our list of culinary vegetables. In 1833, the only seed store in Boston was tho't to be doing a remarkable business if it sold one pound of tomato seed a year. Last year

there were over one thousand pounds sold at the various seed stores in that city.

This remarkable increase in the cultivation of the tomato evinces the rapid progress it has made in public estimation, and is the commentary that can be made on its valuable qualities. Physicians, with one accord, ascribe to it uncommon medicinal qualities as a summer vegetable, and for all bilious complaints. It is unquestionably the most healthy production of our kitchen garden.

The tomato is productive, one single plant producing, often, one half a bushel of fruit. It keeps bearing until the frost cuts it off.—The tomato is of easy culture, costing not more to produce and harvest than turnips cost.

### Cows and Calves.

In some districts it may be best economy to cut the throats of calves as soon as they are born, the milk being more valuable converted into cheese and butter than into veal. Such however is not the case when veal sells as it does here, at from five to eight cents per pound unless fresh butter commands an unusually high price. The relative prices of the veal and butter determine the advantage of one or the other of the courses, and any intelligent farmer can easily calculate which is best economy for him.

In fattening calves for the butcher, they should be suckled regularly, have as much milk as they can take, after they are ten days old; they should be tied up in a dark, clean stable, and have a little fresh clean straw given them every day. Much depends on their being kept clean and quiet. If they are kept clean they will not be troubled with lice. If they should be, give them a little sulphur, it will both purify the blood and rid them of the lice. In suckling them, let the strap remain round their necks and take them away from the cow as soon as they have had their fill, and do not let them run about. The rate of increase of a calf depends a good deal on the breed, and on the food of the mother; when a calf is more than six weeks old it seldom gets as much milk as it would take, unless the cow be very well kept. As a general thing, therefore, it is not profitable to keep fattening calves after they are six weeks old.

For rearing calves, of course, a different treatment is necessary. You must have an eye to health and the development of muscle, and not, as in the other case, to the accumulation of fat. They should be allowed more light and exercise. If fed by hand, after the first two or three weeks a little fresh skim milk and linseed tea might economically be substituted for a part of the fresh milk. A dairyman will be paid for a little extra feed and care to his cows in the spring. It often

happens that cows are very costive a week or two preceding and following parturition. A feed of *mangel wurtzel*, or two pounds of oil cake per day, will be found of great advantage in such a case. The increase of milk will pay for the oil-cake, while the increased health and strength of the cow will be pure gain and will tell well in the milk pail during the summer.

We need scarcely say that it is very important that a cow be milked clean at all times, but especially immediately after calving. As soon as the cow has calved, we like to take all the milk out of the udder we can get, previous to letting the calf suck, and if the udder gets hard or is inflamed, as is often the case, rub it well with cold soft water or buttermilk, and take out the milk before the calf is to suck. The calf will then draw it clear and bunt it well, speedily effecting a cure. An eminent writer has said, 'For my part I never see a man milking a cow without being impressed with the idea that he is usurping an office which does not benefit him.' Certainly there are few men that are fit to milk, or have anything at all to do with a cow. We have known cows that would not suffer a man to milk them without their legs tied, yet they would be as quiet as a lamb while a woman with her soft hands, kind words, and pacifying manners, performed the operation. However unruly and ugly a cow may be, never beat or kick her; harsh treatment only makes the temper worse, while kindness will tame a tartar. -- *Genesee Farmer*.

From the Maine Farmer.

### The Crow.

MR. EDITOR:—The crow is a troublesome bird to the farmer, and as many of them would undoubtedly like to learn some method of getting rid of them, I will give you an account of the plan pursued by me, which was very successful.

In the spring of 1852, I planted a piece of corn near the woods. One day I left a few hills uncovered, which the crows immediately took. I then finished planting, enclosed the field with strings, and put up other scarecrows, but it was of no use. The next morning I went on to the piece at day-light and staid until breakfast time, when the children went out; but in spite of all our efforts the crows would get some of it.

After failing in these methods, I thought of poisoning them. Several years ago I soaked some corn in arsenic, but they would not touch it, so I concluded to try some other way. I purchased a quantity of arsenic, took twenty-four grains of corn, and with an awl made a hole in the chit of each kernel, into which I put about half a grain of arsenic and nipped it down. I then took enough of the corn to

make a gill, mixed it, and spread it on spots where they would be most likely to get it. I did this three times. I then fixed a gill of corn in this way, mixed it with three pints more, and sowed it on the field. I then took the scarecrows away, and was troubled no more by the crows. A FARMER.

Pittston, March 26, 1853.

### Cultivation of the Willow.

On Saturday last we had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Mr. Wilson G. Haynes, of Putnam county, New York, who visits our city as a Delegate to the Free Soil National Convention.

Mr. Haynes, as we believe, the only person in the United States who has paid much attention to the cultivation of the Osier, or Basket Willow, and until our interview with him we were not aware of its importance and of the facilities for its cultivation.

It is estimated that there are some \$5,000,000 worth of willow imported into this country, and the amount is rapidly increasing, as the necessities of the country for the articles in which it is used increase. All this willow could be grown here to advantage. The price ranges from \$100 to \$150 per ton. The chief importation is from France and Germany.

It is generally supposed that willow must be grown on wet or marshy lands, or near ponds of running water. This, Mr. Haynes tells us, is a mistake. He says the basket willow can be grown on uplands of a clayey soil. The soil should be rich, and about as much attention should be given to the plants as to Indian corn. It should be cultivated and kept from weeds. The first year the produce will be but little, unless the cuttings are large, but every year afterwards the produce will afford ample profit. By the fourth year the plant arrives at perfection, and will annually thereafter yield its crop, provided it is properly cultivated. Plants in this state will throw up shoots twelve feet high in a season, of an inch in diameter, and without a knot. This is the most valuable willow for manufacturing purposes, as it can be easily split.

Mr. Haynes who is engaged in growing and manufacturing of willow says he grows as good willow as can be imported from any part of the world, and makes a profit in the growth over all expenses, of about \$156 per acre. He says that the willow can be grown profitably in this country at \$50 per ton, and he shows his own confidence by investing all the means he can command in the growth of the plant. He is importing great numbers of the cuttings from different parts of Europe, and will soon have considerable ground under cultivation.

But it is principally for fencing purposes that Mr. Haynes thinks the willow can be made most useful in this country. This ques-

tion of fencing is soon to become one of immense moment to farmers. It is certain some substitute must be found for timber, as the supply will soon be exhausted. Mr. Haynes, who has travelled extensively in Europe, to investigate this subject, says that fences which the most powerful animals could not force are made by the willow plant in two or three years. The manner of planting for fencing is to place the ends of strong cuttings in the ground and then working them into a sort of trellis-work, passing a willow wither around the tops or ends, to keep them in shape for the first year or two. The tops are cut off yearly and sold to the basket makers, thus affording a handsome profit on the fence.

There are a great variety of willow. The *Salix Verminalis* is the best for basket makers, and experiments have tested that it will thrive and propagate in this country. An acre of this properly planted on a suitable soil, and properly cultivated, will yield about two tons weight per annum, costing about \$35 per ton for cultivation and preparing it for market.

The *Salix Caprea*, is also good for baskets, and is used extensively for hoop poles and fencing, in England.

The *Salix Alba*, white willow is a favorite in England, for shade trees. It grows more rapidly than any other tree, and makes a rich and beautiful shade. It is planted along avenues, water courses, and on the margin of fish ponds and mill dams. It gives a fine shade in two or three years. The bark is held in high estimation for tanning; the wood for shoe maker's lasts, boot-tree, gun and pistol stocks, house timber, and is extensively used in the manufacture of gun powder. It is fine grained, and susceptible of high polish.—*Pittsburg Enquirer*.

#### Hints about Harness.

We find the following hints on the treatment of carriage and working harness, in the Zanesville Aurora, but do not know whether credit is properly due to that paper or not:

For several years we have adopted the following plan of treating Carriage Harness, with so much comfort and success, that we have concluded to recommend it to you for working and carriage harness.

The whole thing may be comprised in a few words. "With hot water, soap, brushes and scrapers, make your harness perfectly clean. Next saturate with oil; lastly, a water proof elastic polish and blacking."

For your information, we detail to you how we go about accomplishing these results:—Select some afternoon with a prospect of a fair day following. Take your harness and take it to pieces, as far as you can unbuckle it. Put them into a tub or barrel, and pour boiling suds over them and let them stand all night. In the morning take a stiff brush, or

corn cobs, or something else of the same sort, and with a smooth board in place of a wash board, with fresh water and soap, rub the coat of grease and dirt off each side of the leather. Sometimes it is necessary to use a dull old knife to scrape with. Pass each strap through a second clean water, and hang up on a line, exposed to the sun. As soon as they begin to dry, begin to oil them. Neat's foot is best, but fish oil will do very well. Make a brush by wrapping some flannel round a stick and tying it with thread, dip this in the oil and pass over both sides. As it dries in, go over them again and again, until they will absorb no more oil. Let them stay out over night.

In the morning, if they are all soft and pliable, you may proceed to apply a varnish. If not, put on more oil until they do get soft and pliable.

The polish is made as follows: take a pint of fish or neat's foot oil, add four ounces of beeswax, four ounces clean beef tallow, one ounce rosin, and an ounce of lamp black. Melt;—when melted, add about two table-spoonsful turpentine, and with flannel cloths commence rubbing the harness both sides, draw the straps through and through the flannel. The polish must always be applied as warm as the hand can bear it. Let your harness hang out one night. Take warm water and soap and wash all the black off, which will come off, with sponge or cloths. Hang up and in an hour or so, you can buckle together again, and is fit for use. You will now have soft harness, with a dull shiny jet black surface, which will keep so for a whole year, if you have put oil enough on them to render them as soft as woolen cloth. They will retain this dull shiney black all summer, and mud will never stay on long after it is dry.

Any persons who will treat this harness so, once a year, will never regret the trouble.

If they need repairing, either do it yourselves or have it done, before the spring work comes on.

**GRASS AND HAY FOR CATTLE.**—A correspondent inquires of us, "why it is that cattle thrive and get fat much faster on grass than they do on hay, and what is it that grass loses by becoming hay?" Chemical analysis never can give the answer. One kind of food may contain far more of the constituents of beef than another, and yet not be suitable for food.—Cattle have their likes and dislikes of food, as well as human beings, and no animal will thrive on food that does not please the taste, however nutritive it may be, because it will not eat so much of it. The sweet juice of the grass, which is absent from the hay, makes it palatable, and affords the requisite amount of moisture to make it digest most easily.—*Scientific American*.

From the Boston Cultivator.

**Apple Orchards.**

At the weekly agricultural meeting held at the State House on the evening of February first, last, Hon. John C. Gray read a portion of an *Essay on Orchards*, written by him for the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture. We have received from Mr. Gray a copy of this essay, but as our limited space does not admit of giving the whole, we have given it a careful review, and gathered such facts as appear to be most important.

Mr. G. notices in the outset, the interest taken by the first settlers of this country, in the cultivation of fruit. He alludes to the pear tree planted by Gov. Endicott, 'which yet survives the lapse of seven generations of men.' He mentioned also the important aid which our horticulture received from the French Huguenots, who settled here in the early part of the eighteenth century. From that time the culture of fruit has been gradually extending. The valuable writings of S. G. Perkins and Robert Manning, and the more elaborate works of the late Mr. Downing, are spoken of as having been of great utility in the improvement of horticulture in this country.

In regard to the rearing of trees, Mr. Gray suggested whether it would not be better to give them more room in nurseries, in order that they might be more influenced by the sun and air. Four feet between the trees, at least in one direction, he thought would not be too much. He alluded to the caution of some English and French writers, that the soil of a nursery be not too rich; but he advises to 'treat the tree as well as possible at all stages of its growth.'

He thinks the apple is not fastidious as to soil. He would prefer a hill-side to a level, as affording fairer exposure to all the trees, and ensuring better drainage. Would prefer an eastern or northern to a southern slope, as on a southern slope the trees often prolong their growth too far into the autumn, from which cause the wood is imperfectly ripened, and suffers from subsequent cold. The ground should be stirred to the depth of fifteen or sixteen inches. This could be done most effectually with the spade, but as this would cost fifty dollars an acre, he would substitute the subsoil plow, by which the work would be done at a quarter the cost.

He would cultivate the whole ground in an orchard, in preference to cultivating a circle round each tree. Where the latter course is adopted, the tree is in the situation of a potted plant, the roots meeting with a hard rim at the line of the sward. The crops grown among trees should be those which admit of hoeing, and which least exhaust the soil of moisture. As a further protection against drouth, he

would mulch the ground at the foot of the tree with moss, leaves, or other litter. The ground should also be liberally manured, but unmixed barn manure should not come in immediate contact with the tree.

In planting trees, the holes should be at least three feet in diameter and a foot and a half in depth. Forty feet apart he thinks not too much for the trees, and he would prefer the square to the quincunx or any other plan of setting. Would prefer spring to autumn for planting trees. In taking up trees for planting, great care should be taken that the roots are not mutilated. The small fibres are the organs through which the tree draws the greater part of its nourishment, and these, therefore, should be preserved. The tree should be replanted in a bed of rich earth finely pulverized. This should be moistened; but very copious watering is thought to be of doubtful expediency. As to planting stones under the tree, which has been sometimes advised with a view of preventing the roots from striking downwards, it is thought 'the direction of the roots may be safely left to nature.' The trees should be set the same depth at which they stood in the nursery, allowing an inch for the ground to settle. If the trees are properly set, they will hold their ground without any artificial support.

After a tree is planted, some seem to suppose nothing more is necessary. But constant vigilance is required to secure a proper growth and guard the tree against insects. As to pruning, little more is necessary than to prevent the limbs from crossing and chafing each other; but great care is required to protect from drouth, disease, and insects. The means to guard against drouth are chiefly mulching round the trees, and keeping the surface of the whole ground clear from weeds and grass by frequently working the surface.

Moss may be removed by a solution of strong washing soap, and scraping the bark. A solution of potash will do it, but it may be used too strong. A pound of potash to two gallons of water may be safely used. The natural life of the apple tree is more limited than that of the oak. There are oaks in this vicinity which were doubtless stately trees when the first white man put his foot on our shores. The regular duration of the apple tree, does not generally exceed seventy or eighty years. Little can be done to renovate trees which decay from age. It is better to supply their place by new trees.

Of the various insect enemies of the apple tree, the canker-worm is the most dreaded.—The best remedy against it, is what is described by Kollar as a wooden boot. It is a box without top or bot tom, and with sides about a foot high, furnished with a border at top on the outside, like the eaves of a

house. Tar is put on under the border, and being thus protected from the sun and weather, remains liquid a long time. Care must still be taken to renew it occasionally. Some insects may rise within the boot and the tree, but these will be few, if any, as their propensity is to climb over obstacles, and not mine beneath them. For a tree not exceeding twelve inches in diameter, a boot will cost not exceeding sixteen or eighteen cents, and if taken off and replaced at the proper seasons, it will last many years.

One of the best modes of destroying caterpillars, on young trees, is thought to be to pick off the bunches of eggs, in autumn. Many of the eggs will, however, be overlooked, and the insects will be seen in nests or webs in the spring. The insects are always in the nests early in the morning, and may then be taken off together with the web, by the hand, and those not readily reached, may be destroyed by a spiral brush.

According to the statements of the late S. G. Perkins, the ravages of the borer could be prevented by examining the trees twice a year, in June and October, destroying the insect if found near the bark, and pouring a small quantity of unleached ashes round the tree.

### Orchard Grass.

We extract from the Louisville Democrat the following from a valuable essay on Cultivated Grasses, by Colonel Lewis Sanders, of Grass Hills, Ky. No man in the west has bestowed more attention to the subject of the various grasses than Colonel S., nor is there one whose teachings will be found more reliable. Timothy and red top he regards as inferior compared with orchard grass and red clover:

Orchard grass and red clover mixed make the best hay of all the grasses for this climate; it is nutritious and well adapted as food for stock. I prefer orchard grass to all others; it is ready for grazing in the spring ten or twelve days sooner than blue grass or any other that affords a fall bite. When grazed down and the stock turned off, it will be ready for regrazing in less than half the time required for blue grass. It stands a severe drought better than any other grass; when all other sorts are dried up for the want of rain, it keeps green and growing. In summer it will grow more in a day than blue grass will in a week. If the ground is properly prepared and a sufficiency of seed sown on it, the orchard grass takes possession and keeps it. It will not spread, but it keeps out noxious weeds and intruders. I think it is from

its abundant roots that most of its good qualities are derived.

**SOWING THE SEED.**—Prepare the ground nicely by frequent plowing and harrowing, as is customary in sowing flax or hemp, as early in the spring as convenient—the sooner the better. Sow one bushel and a half of orchard grass seed to the acre, and three or four pints of red clover seed. It is of great importance that the seed be cast uniformly over the ground. Mark off in suitable widths for a cast of light seed; sow half the seed then mark off crosswise, and sow the remainder. Sow the red clover and at the same time, but separately. If the ground should be cloddy, the back of a two horse harrow would be better.

Orchard grass is naturally disposed to form and grow in tussocks. The best preventive is a good preparation of the ground and a sufficiency of seed uniformly sown.

Weeds will spring up in May, wherever strong, and will crowd and perish out the young plants of orchard grass. To remedy this evil it is absolutely necessary to go over the ground with a keen scythe and mow down the weeds, grass, and all, as if you were mowing a meadow for hay. This should be done early in June, according to the season. There will then be fine fall grazing for young stock.

This work done will have a fine plat for either a permanent meadow or for pasturage.—Every farmer ought to raise his own grass seed, and have some to sell, which will soon be the case if a few bushels of seed are procured and put in as I have described. He can then sow his seed how and when he pleases, and a little experience will teach him the best time and method. Grazing orchard grass after the middle of January diminishes the yield of seed.

**TO SAVE THE SEED.**—The seed head does not ripen regularly; if left to stand too long much of the best seed shatters out; if cut too early the seed in the lower part of the head is immature—practice with judgment will fix upon the right time. The seed stem puts up above the blades of the grass and the heads of clover. An expert cradler is best—the sickle may be used—tie up in sheaves—put about twenty-five in a shock, no cap—to remain a short time—some of the immature seed will ripen in the shock. After all the moisture is exhausted, it is then ready for threshing out. With the rake and hay fork you get off the straw—there is not much chaff. I use three sizes of riddles; the first a coarse one to get clear of the remaining straw, &c.; then pass it twice through a finer one, allowing the seed to pass through easily; then use the fine riddle, freeing the bulk from imperfect seed and dust. It is now ready for barreling or for

sacks. It ought not to remain in a large bulk.

As soon as the seed is cut, mow the hay; the sooner after the seed is cut the better. The second crop will be better, by mowing the field soon after the seed is cut. This second crop should be the main reliance for hay for the farm, and there is no grass that produces such good hay for every kind of stock horses and mules included.

The late Judge Peters, of Penn., who was for many years at the head of all agricultural improvements in that great State, preferred it to all other grass. So did that spirited and intelligent gentlemen, John Hare Powell, of cattle celebrity, of the same State.

Eighty acres of land well set in orchard grass, divided into three lots, will carry, the year through, more stock in good condition than any hundred acres of the best blue grass that I have seen. No other kind of grass flourishes better in woodlands. For the best method of putting woodlands down to grass, I refer to Judge Beatty's most excellent 'Essays on Agriculture,' a book of inestimable value to beginners, and a perusal of its pages will more than repay any old farmer for the very small cost of the book.

Knowing that orchard grass possesses the good qualities I have attempted to describe, I am astonished that the farmers of Kentucky have so entirely neglected its cultivation. It is said of them that as a class, they can see as far into a millstone as any other class of people. They will pay \$5,000 for a jackass, nearly half that sum has been paid by them for a cow and calf, corresponding sums have been paid for sheep and for hogs, yet they will not give up their favorite blue grass (the green sward) for a much better. Orchard grass is not a good binder; if sown on steep hill sides a plentiful cast of blue grass seed should be sown with it.

LEWIS SANDERS.

Grass Hills, Ky., Nov. 1852.

### The Improvement of our Common Sheep.

[Selected.]

In the improvement of sheep, as well as of other animals, the male is considered of more importance than the female, and more care is therefore necessary in selecting one; yet, for the production of perfect animals, it is absolutely essential that both male and female be well bred; and if not individually perfect in every point, the conformation of the two should be such as when combined would form a perfect creature. So that in endeavoring to improve our common flocks of sheep, we should not only get good, first rate bucks, but should select out from the flock the ewes of the best age and make, to put with him; and in choosing them, should have an eye to those partic-

ular points we wish to have well developed in the lambs. In this way much may be done to improve our ordinary breeds of sheep, without much outlay in purchasing improved stock. A knowledge of the principles of breeding, and care in the selection, and management of the ewes from which we intend to breed, and the choice of a buck adapted to counteract any deficiencies in the ewes, will, if judiciously persevered in for a few years, greatly improve any flock of sheep.

Farmers often procure a buck which, however useful he might be for other flocks, is altogether unsuitable for the flock he is intended to serve. Again, in a large flock of ordinary sheep there are often two or more kinds of ewes with characteristics entirely different from each other: hence a buck that might be first rate for the one, and calculated to improve the breed, would be altogether ill adapted for the other, and would propagate imperfections rather than neutralize them; yet how common is it to let the whole flock run together, and have the indiscriminate use of the same bucks. Instead of this, careless, heedless, and profitless way of breeding, the flock should at this time be judiciously assorted into lots of forty or fifty, having a buck with each lot possessing strongly the particular points in which the ewes are somewhat deficient, and in accordance with the object for which the lambs are raised. Where a small flock is kept, and only one buck is needed, a farmer can often select out some ewes of a particular conformation, that would be better served by a neighbor's buck than his own. The neighbor, too, may be in the same circumstances; and thus a change of ewes to be served by each other's buck would be mutually advantageous to the owners and beneficial to the flock.

The best time at which to place the bucks with the flock, depends a great deal on the breed of sheep and the object of the breeder. If his flock is rather coarse woolled, and he wishes early lambs for the butcher, the middle of September is perhaps not too soon. This, as ewes go twenty-two to twenty-three weeks, would bring the lambs about the first of March, which, in the vicinity of large cities, where early lamb commands a good price, is the best time—yielding most profit, although a little extra care and feed are necessary. The buck in this case should be a Leicester or South Down, as their cross with common sheep gives a larger lamb, with increased tendency to fatten and early maturity. Such a cross with our common half-blooded Merino flocks produces good mutton sheep, and it is often profitable to adopt it for that purpose; but it would be folly to attempt to breed from such a mongrel race. We are not sure, however, but a good South Down ram would improve the size and constitution of some of our com-

mon flocks, without materially injuring the weight and quality of the wool. If, however, the object of the flock-master be merely the production of wool of fine quality, he should procure Spanish or French Merino bucks, selecting from his flock the best ewes of from three to eight years old to place with them. It is not desirable to have the lambs come till there is a prospect of grass for the mother; so the bucks should be kept from the flock till the later part of October. And as grass is often scarce and innutritious then, it will be advisable to give a little clover hay, or perhaps oats or peas, to stimulate the ewes at that time. The buck, too, should be grained; or have a little oil cake at night, separately from the ewes. Nothing pays better than careful attention to the flock during winter, and the spring the quality of their food should be increased, and a few ruta бага or mangel wurzel may be given with advantage. Especially are they beneficial when the ewes are heavy in lamb, or after lambing, if grass is not ready. It is not, however, desirable to have the breeding ewes too fat; but we are sorry to say this is a caution too little needed—more flocks being injured by scant and non-nutritious food, than by over feeding.

**CULTIVATION OF THE LENTIL.**—We do not recollect ever seeing this crop grown in the United States, except as a curiosity in some amateur's garden. Why is this? Can any of our readers inform us? If so, we shall be happy to hear from them.

Lentils have been cultivated with success from the most remote antiquity in Asia, Africa and Europe. Why not then in America?—Learned commentators seem to think that the 'red pottage,' for which Esau sold his birth-right to Jacob, was made of lentils. We find in an article in *Le Bon Jardinier*, that lentils are much cultivated in the neighborhood of Paris, not only in the gardens, but in the open fields, in beds and in rows, though rarely broadcast. The article from which we translate, says, that the *lentille rouge*, (red lentil, the botanical name of which is *Erveum lens minor*.) is the most highly esteemed in France; and adds, that the ancients caused it to *germinate* before cooking, in order that the saccharine may be more fully developed. In case lentils get into cultivation in America, our cooks will do well to recollect this last observation.

The general cultivation of the lentil is like that of the pea, except they are staked instead of bushed; but in cooking, they should be longer and more slowly boiled than either the pea or bean, allowing them to dissolve into a complete mass of jelly. They become then very savory and nutritious. Some writers consider it the cheapest food known, either for

man or beast. The celebrated medicinal food called *sevalenta*, *ervallenta*, &c., is made from the flour of lentils. The straw is highly relished by cattle either green or dry.

### Care of Carts and Waggon.

The New England Farmer has the following sensible remarks on the subject of housing and painting farm vehicles;

It is strange what a difference there is among farmers with regard to the importance of housing their waggons and carts. Prudent, economical men, in most things, are wholly insensible to the great loss they experience by allowing their expensive vehicles to be beaten upon and soaked by the storms, and checked and shrunk by the blazing sun.

Waggons and carts from the makers shops are seldom well painted. The owner gets so anxious to be using his new cart, and the old one seems so unbearable, that the cart is taken from the shop before the littl. openings in the wood and the joints are half filled with paint, the farmer 'guesses it will do,' and away it goes to commence a straight forward course of decay. A few days after, it rains. The cart body is soaked through. The joints absorb water and swell. By-an-by, when the water has dried out, after having been dragged about the farm for several days, the joints become loose. This process needs only to be repeated a sufficient number of times to give you a heavy rickety, body, which, in a few years breaks up, and sends you to the mechanic again.

But the wheels are the most important part. Upon them has the most labor been expended in proportion to their weight, and of them should the most care be taken. The hubs, generally, are made of elm. Elm, exposed to the weather, is of short duration. It is used because it is difficult to split in driving the White-oak hubs invariably check and open, when uncovered by paint, and exposed to the weather. White-oak,—indeed all timber, loses its strength and tenacity after being again and again exposed to rain and air. The hub then grows soft, the spokes settle into it a very little, and the consequence is that the tire is loose, and the blacksmith's aid is needed.

A wagon left out of doors will in a few years become a spongy, heavy mass, unprofitable to use. As proof of the correctness of these remarks, we know of a farmer who has run down three sets of wheels by exposure, and not by work, while another has a pair of wheels perfectly sound, built a year or two before his neighbor's first pair. In the first case the wheels have never been housed, winter nor summer; but have been left by the road side, as if impregnable as the stone wall to injury from the weather. In the other case

the cart has been uniformly housed, and always well painted. It must be very intelligible to the reader which is the wiser course.

From the Wool Grower.

### About Improved Breeds of Cattle.

MR EDITOR:—After reading your article on Hereford Cattle, I felt inclined to say a few words myself upon the subject of our 'Improved breeds of Cattle,' when my eye met another paragraph beginning thus,—"Give us, friend Moore, practical information." Thinks I, this has always been my doctrine, and should my article not be of that kind, it will vary from my preaching.

After all that has been said and written about the improved breeds of cattle, it is astonishing how many farmers, well informed on other matters, do not even know the difference between the Shorthorn and the Devon. At our State Shows you will find them going from one animal to another, asking, "What breed is this?"—while perhaps some one standing by who *thinks* he knows, will answer that the Devon is a Durham, and the Hereford an Ayrshire. But there are some things concerning these breeds which most of our breeders, even, do not seem aware of. Perhaps the most important of these is that almost all (I might say *all*, the exceptions are so few,) the leading breeders in England of Short-horns, Herefords and Devons, breed for *beef* and *not* milk; so little indeed is the latter quality considered, that during a year spent among them I hardly once heard it mentioned. In this country, on the other hand, milk has been, and still is to a great extent, the main desideratum: hence the dissatisfaction with many imported animals, especially Devons. Still there are exceptions to the above rule, and good milkers may also be found in every large herd of thorough breeds, especially on this side of the water; but the chances are that the buyer, unless very careful and close in his selection, gets a beef instead of a milk animal. This however, does not give him a right to cry down the whole breed, because, forsooth his specimen does not do what she was not meant to do.

Another point but little heeded in this country, though of late years more attended to, is aptitude to fatten *early*. The English farmer says to his neighbor,—"My thorough, or part bred beast is fit for the butcher at three years old, while your mongrel is good for naught until he is five: so my money returns to my pockets two years sooner than yours, and I save the interest for that time." Interest in England is two or three per cent; here six or seven. How much more valuable then, is this point with us. For early maturity the Short-horns are generally admitted to rank first, though within the last five or eight years the

two other breeds have made great improvement. I have myself now a half breed Devon steer two years old the end of last March, which, with only the run of my dry cows until near winter, and meal since the middle of last month, I expect to get up to near 800 in the beef by the end of January,—which weight has been the average of four year old common steers, after graining five or six months: I mean four past, whereas he will not be three when slaughtered.

If for early maturity, the three breeds stand, Short-horns, Herefords and Devon; for fine beef—another point just coming into note here—they face about and head the other way. During the winter of 1847-8, I carefully examined the prices current at Smithfield market, as noted in the 'Mark Lane Express,' to ascertain the relative value of the beef of the different breeds. There was, on an average, one-half penny a pound between them as I have them, while the West Highlands commanded one-half penny more than the Devons. Exeter is well known to be the best beef market of its size in the world. Beside the fineness of grain and thorough interlaying of fat and lean in their meat, their cleanness and smallness of bone help to give the Devons the advantage. A London butcher, when asked by Prince George of Cambridge, why he so much preferred them, replied,—"May it please your Royal Highness, they have less three-penny and more nine-penny beef in them than any others."

I find I have already filled up twice as much paper as I intended, although not half through what I wanted to say. One remark of Yours, as quoted by you in your article on Herefords, though, I must beg leave to question, viz: that 'they are more hardy than the Devons.' When I became acquainted with Mr. John Hudson, of Castle Acre,—one of the largest feeders in England and one of the best farmers too, fattening annually 1000 head of cattle and 3000 head of sheep on a farm of only 1,200 acres,—in all our conversation he strongly upheld the Herefords as altogether the most profitable breed to feed. On visiting his farm in July, he showed me a splendid specimen of a Hereford heifer which he had been fattening for 18 months to exhibit at the next Smithfield Club meeting; but although he had already laid in some 300 or 400 head for the coming winter, she was the only Hereford on the place; his pastures were filled with Devons and Scots. "How comes this, Mr. Hudson," said I; "I thought you were all for Herefords?" "So I am," he answered, "when one has the pasture, but the truth is a Devon or Scot will get fat where a Hereford will starve."

It may seem to some that I have been praising the Devons at the expense of the others;

such has not been my intention, but the great advantage they have over that breed in size is too well known to need mention. The Short-horns are doubtless the most profitable in a mild climate with rich pastures; and the Devons in a trying temperature and scant feed,—while the Herefords will be preferred through the intermediate country. No one breed will be found to excel in all points and situations, until the same time that the universal panacea in medicine so long sought for makes its appearance, and a perpetual motion mill grinds out whatever customers ask for.

Yours, &c.,  
December 1852.

W. C. S.

### Small Farms.

Many of our farms are so situated that they are unable to hire much labor, apply much manure, or expend much capital on their land. They see their neighbors putting in a large number of acres, and they do the same. They run over the land. They half work it. They get small crops, the produce of which is almost eaten up by the expense; and instead of growing richer, they either remain, year after year, as they are, or become poorer. Will such listen to a brother farmer, who has had to work his own way, and gain experience for himself? Your object is to make a good living off your farm. You ought to receive,

1. A good day's wages for a fair day's work, and a little over for your management, all the year round.

2. Ten per cent. interest on what your farm has cost you; and also on your stock and implements; for you could get this for your money if lent out:

3. You should have ten per cent more for wear and tear, to cover chance of loss, and death of stock, besides keeping up your fences and buildings.

4. You should have your living, i. e., your eating, lodging, and washing.

5. You should have a profit besides these, or something remaining when all these expenses are paid. We suppose that you hire no labor, or otherwise the wages of your hired man must be repaid also. Unless you do all this, farming is not as good a business to you as it ought to be. You will say, that you have never got anything like it. Then it is full time that you stop, and think awhile.—Your present mode of farming is not lucrative. 'Is it the right mode? Is there no other plan I can pursue which is more profitable?' These are the questions which you should plainly ask yourself. We think there is a better plan. A farmer is a manufacturer of grain and meat. The soil is the mill. The team is the motive power. Do you not give the mill and the team more to do than they can accomplish properly? On the average it costs ten dollars an acre to

cultivate our usual crops—from plowing to selling, including interest on land; and in many instances I know, the whole produce is scarcely worth ten dollars an acre: sometimes it is worth less, and then there is a dead loss. Now, if by adding two dollars an acre to the expense, you can add ten dollars to the produce would you not be eight dollars an acre, better off? Here is the very thing: *Cultivate less land, and cultivate that little thoroughly and you will find yourself growing rich.*—Which is best, to cultivate 25 acres at \$12 an acre, costing \$300, and get \$500 worth of produce; or to cultivate 50 acres at \$10 an acre, costing \$500, and get \$500 worth of produce? We are not exaggerating the matter. Many and many a farmer in Michigan is doing the latter; and all he gets, is his wages as a hired man for working his own land; for of course his labor is a part of the cost of \$10 an acre; and he runs a yearly risk of losing all, or a part of this. We repeat, *CULTIVATE LESS LAND, CULTIVATE BETTER, and you will be richer.*

Let us sit down and calculate. You have 100 clear, 50 of which you keep as pasture, and 50 for meadow. Make up your mind to work only 25 acres; the other 25 being put down to clover, or clover and timothy, as you best can. You have manure enough in and about your farm for six acres. This year haul that on to your land, plow it, and put in corn; with a little ashes, and, if you can get it, slaked lime or plaster to every hill. Plow twice as deep as usual; and drag twice as long, with a long toothed drag, till the land is like a garden. If you have got 35 bushels of corn to the acre before, we can warrant you now 70 or 80; for you cultivate and hoe the corn twice as much likewise. You double your crop at a very little increased cost. Having no more manure you must depend on deeper plowing, and better dragging for the other 10 acres, for this year, not forgetting to sow a little more seed than usual, if it is oats or barley. In the fall, sow wheat where the corn was, with the same care, and next spring manure the next six acres for corn. Yes, but you can manure 10 or 12 acres; for you have had 25 more acres for hay, or oat straw cut green for fodder, and can keep 25 more cows through the winter; and knowing the value of the manure—that it is as important to you as the soil itself—you will take much better care of it. Thus, every two or three years, all your land will get a dressing of manure and every year you will have a different crop on it. Every year it will improve, and you grow richer, with about half your work. But after a while sow a few acres of this land with clover and timothy, and break up as much of your old grass. You will get double the crop of hay on the new piece, and a good crop of grain on the old piece. In a word, of all

men in the world, a small farmer should work a small piece of land; work it thoroughly well; keep all the stock he can to make manure; keep the manure dry, and he will not be a small farmer long. We have tried it, and we know it. For the rest, take and read a good farmer's newspaper.—*Farmer's Companion.*

### Land Monopoly.

It appears from the Pension Office Report, that Land Warrants have been issued to the amount of *nine millions, nine hundred and thirty-five thousand, three hundred and twenty acres.* Now we venture to say that nine-tenths of this vast amount is or will be in the hands of speculators, and located on the best of public lands! What greater evil could Congress inflict on the new States? It shuts out settlers, especially those we most need; young men with small capital, or else places them at the mercy of Eastern capitalists who commonly own these lands. It bids fair to end in all the evils that cursed New York, and produced the Anti-Rent riots, only the evil will be vastly greater. It will draw the wealth away from the West to pay for lands as they will rise in value. The people by settling around them will increase the value and thus the absentees will reap the benefit of Western industry; and of course they will oppose giving the public lands to the landless; which would be an act of justice and sound policy. The Treasury is already overflowing from revenue. The lands are not needed by the Government. Why not give them then to actual settlers? Ans. It would stop speculations in which our Congressmen are deeply interested. How long will the West thus bleed to satisfy Eastern capitalists? We cannot tell, but think it will be till they take steps to control parties and demand 'free soil.'—*Janesville Free Press.*

### The Sweeney.

I see in your paper of the 12th ult. inquiry made for a remedy to cure sweeney in horses, and as I have one on hand that I know from long experience will cure and won't fail, I will request the favor to have inserted in your Post, for the benefit of your inquiring friend and the numerous readers of your valuable paper.

Take a half pound of blistering ointment and a half pint of spirits of turpentine, and simmer them over a slow fire until intimately mixed—it is then ready for use either warm or cold. Take up the skin on the shoulder of the horse where it is diseased, between the thumb and fore-finger, and puncture it six or eight times, through and through, with a sharp pointed awl; then rub in well a portion of this preparation for three or four successive mornings, until the shoulder is blistered.—When the blister heals the horse will be well.—*Sat. Eve. Post.*

**Potato Disease—another Cause and Remedy.**—An Austrian named Malfatti, has transmitted a communication to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in which he claims to have discovered that the cause of the potato disease lies 'in the decay and degeneracy of the plant in respect to its double sex!' He claims further, that he has found a remedy for the disease, which is 'crossing the potato with other plants; and he says he has produced new stocks (he does not say whether they are potatoes,) from a mixture of the potato with artichoke, with the cardoon, (a plant resembling the artichoke,) and with the dahlia! He says 'the new breed is distinguished for beauty, size and richness.' One of the improvements which he claims, is that the tubers of the new stock have lost the 'general insipidity and mealiness of potatoes.' Those combined with cardoons, he says tasted like artichokes, while in those combined with the dahlia there was a sweet taste, like sugar. We think this beats all previous 'discoveries' in the potato disease: Dr. Malfatti ought to 'put in' for the \$10,000 offered by this State in reference to the cause and cure of the malady. We shall probably soon hear of some one who has these monstrosities for sale.

N. B. It may be well to add, that a distinguished botanist in this vicinity, who has read the communication of the Austrian doctor, thinks 'it is either a *hoax*, or else the writer is *crazy*.'—*Boston Cultivator.*

**Pumpkins and Squashes in Cornfields.**—At an agricultural meeting in New Hampshire, a cultivator stated that he had found pumpkins, squashes and turnips, in cornfields, to lessen the amount of corn. This is to be expected, as they must, as a matter of course, operate in the same way as weeds. He had also found by using the corn planting machine for every alternate row, a difference in favor of the corn planter of about seven bushels per acre. So much for regularity and perfection of work.

**AGE OF SHEEP—HOW DETERMINED.**—The age of sheep may be known by the front teeth. They are eight in number, and appear all of a size. In the second year the two middle ones fall out, and their place is supplied by two large ones. In the third year a small tooth on each side. In the fourth year the large teeth are six in number. In the fifth year the whole front teeth are large. In the sixth year the whole begin to get worn. In the seventh year the whole fall out or are broken. It is said that the teeth of ewes begin to decay at five or six; those of weathers at seven.

The frequent use of asparagus is strongly recommended in affections of the chest and lungs.

From Downing's 'Country houses.'

### Cheap and Durable Paints for Fences, &c.

**Staining Outside Wood-work.**—We are indebted, for the following recipe for staining outside wood-work and the coarser portions of internal work, to Gervase Wheeler, Esq., an English architect of experience, who has recently settled in this country.

'Take best rosin tar, or pitch, in the proportion of one gallon to every four gallons of the following:

'Turpentine, one and a half gallons, seed-las dissolved in alcohol (in the proportion of one pound to one quart,) two quarts; cold linseed oil, one-half gallon; boiled oil one-half gallon; beeswax, six pounds; ox gall, one pound.

'Mix all these together and add the rosin tar first named. Lay it on with a large flat brush.

'This is a very beautiful and richly colored stain, and I have seen it frequently used in the timber-work of the simple country churches in England. Some persons use a larger proportion of the tar, and for work much exposed to the weather it would perhaps be better to do so.'

**Cheap Wash for Cottages of Wood.**—For the outside of wooden cottages, barns, out-buildings, fences, etc., where economy is important, the following wash is recommended:

Take a clean barrel that will hold water.—Put in it half a bushel of fresh quicklime, and slake it by pouring over it boiling water sufficient to cover it four or five inches deep, and stirring it till slaked.

When quite slaked, dissolve in water, and add two pounds of sulphate of zinc (white vitriol,) which may be had of any of the druggists, and which, in a few weeks, will cause the white-wash to harden on the wood-work. Add sufficient water to bring it to the consistence of thick whitewash. This wash is of course white, and as white is a color which we think should never be used except on buildings a good deal surrounded by trees, so as to prevent its glare, we would make it a fawn or drab color before using it.

To make the above wash a pleasing cream color, add four pounds yellow ochre.

For a fawn color, take four pounds umber, one pound Indian red, and one-half pound lampblack.

To make the wash gray or stone color, add one pound raw umber and two pounds lampblack.

The color may be put on with a common white-wash brush, and will be found much more durable than common white-wash, as the sulphate of zinc sets or hardens the wash.

**Cheap Wash for Cottages of Brick, Stone, Stucco, or Rough-cast.**—Take a barrel, and slake half a bushel of fresh lime as before mentioned; then fill the barrel two-thirds full of water and add one bushel of hydraulic ce-

ment or water lime. Dissolve in water and add three pounds sulphate of zinc. The whole should be of the thickness of paint, ready for use with the brush. This wash is improved by the addition of a peck of white sand stirred in just before using it. The color is a pale stone-color, nearly white.

To make it a fawn color, add one pound yellow ochre, two pounds raw umber, two pounds Indian red.

To make it a drab, add one pound Indian red, one pound umber, one pound lampblack.

This wash, we have tested thoroughly, sets and adheres very firmly to brick-work or stucco, is very durable, and produces a very agreeable effect.

**Cheap Cottage Paint.**—The following is a very cheap and excellent paint for cottages, forming a hard surface, and is far more durable than paint; as its hardness increases by time, it will be found preferable to common paint for picturesque country edifices of all kinds.

Take freshly burned unslaked lime and reduce it to powder. To one peck or one bushel of this add the same quantity of fine white sand or fine coal-ashes, and twice as much fresh wood-ashes, all these being sifted through a fine sieve. They should then be thoroughly mixed together, while dry. Afterwards mix them with as much common linseed oil as will make the whole thin enough to work freely with a painter's brush.

This will make a paint of a light-gray stone color, nearly white.

To make it fawn or drab, add yellow ochre and Indian red; if drab is desired, add burnt umber, Indian red, and a little black; if dark stone-color, add lampblack; or if brown stone, then add Spanish brown. All these colors should of course be mixed in oil and then added.

This paint is very much cheaper than common oil paint. It is equally well suited to wood, brick, or stone. It is better to apply it in two coats; the first thin, the second thick.

**Durable Oil Paint.**—Mr. Wheeler uses the following paint, which he recommends strongly to us for outside work.

'Take fifty pounds best white-lead, ten quarts linseed oil: one-half pound Dryers'; fifty pounds finely sifted sharp, clean sand, two pounds raw umber. Thoroughly mix and dilute the whole with the oil, adding a very little (say half a pint) of turpentine. Lay it on with a large brush. I use a wire brush, which does not cut through with the sand.

'Two coats should be used; the second coat thinner than the first. I can, from experience, recommend this paint as standing from 15 to 20 years.'

\* Lampblack, when mixed with water colors, should first be thoroughly dissolved in alcohol. Yellow ochre, Indian red, etc., are sold, in dry powders, at a very few cents per pound.

# The Valley Farmer.

ST. LOUIS, MO., MAY, 1853.

**EPHRAIM ABBOTT, Editor.**

Editor's office and Printing office, in Old Postoffice Building, north side of Chestnut street, between Third and Fourth streets, entrance on Old Postoffice Alley.

## The Law of Newspapers.

1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their papers from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible till they have settled the bill and ordered the paper discontinued.

4. If subscribers remove to other places without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction they are held responsible.

5. The Courts have decided that refusing to take a paper from the office, or removing and leaving it uncalled-for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

Subscribers will therefore understand—

1. That their papers will be continued after the expiration of the time for which they have paid unless otherwise ordered.

2. That no paper will be discontinued until arrearages are paid up to the time at which the notice is given, unless we are satisfied that the subscriber is worthless.

3. That when the paper, through the fault of a subscriber, has been suffered to overrun the time, the just and most convenient way is to remit one dollar for another, year vs. directions to discontinue at the end of that time.

**DIED.**—In Erie County, N. Y., on the 14th of Feb. 1852, Laura Dorcas, wife of A. P. Norton, Esq., daughter of Mr. Benjamin Abbott, of Whitesides Co. Ill., and sister of the editor of the Valley Farmer, aged 29 years.

The subject of this notice made a profession of her faith in the merits of the Saviour and united with the people of God at 11 years of age, and through all the circumstances in life to which she was afterwards called to pass, this faith was a solace and a support. Full well did she evince the sincerity of the profession she had made in the morning of life; and through all her tedious sickness and in the trying hour of death she found in the promises and love of the blessed Saviour an unfailing comforter. She adorned her profession, and in all the relations of life—daughter, sister, friend, teacher, wife and mother, so endeavored to imitate the examples of her divine master, as to secure for her the love and esteem of all who knew her.

**JAMES N. BROWN, Esq.,** is President of the Illinois State Agricultural Society. Communications will reach him if addressed to him at Berlin, Sangamon county, Illinois.

**THE MOUNDS OF ST. LOUIS.**—From the Sixth annual Report of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institute, for a copy of which we are indebted to Hon. J. G. Miller, we learn that the Institute will publish the present year, a work prepared by Mr. Titian R. Peale, of Washington city, giving a plan and description of the mounds which formerly existed on the present site of St. Louis, Missouri, made during the visit of Major Long's party in 1849 to that country, on their way to the Rocky mountains. This sketch is now interesting on account of the fact that, in the rapid improvement, these mounds have been nearly obliterated, and that they can only be preserved to science, as they existed more than thirty years ago, by this publication.

Also an account, with drawings, of ancient works at Prescott, in Canada West. The great size of trees which occupy the ground, evince the long time which must have elapsed since these works were constructed, and the entire absence of stone pipes and arrow heads has induced the belief that they are of a higher antiquity than those in the Ohio valley.

These contributions will form a single memoir, and the plates are partially completed.

**FRANKLIN CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**—The Secretary of this Society writes to us as follows, under date of April 20, 1853:

On the 4th inst. we had a meeting of our Agricultural Society. And some very pertinent remarks were made to the Society by Rev. John R. Browne and Col. Stevenson. A Committee was appointed to select specimens of the different minerals and agricultural products of our county to send to the World's Fair at New York, which duty they have already performed and the specimens shipped to M. Tarver, Esq., at St. Louis.

The people are beginning to take more interest in the matter, and through the indefatigable energies of our President, Henry Cheatham, Esq., and some others, I think we will soon be in a flourishing condition. The next meeting of the Society will be held in Union on Saturday, the 14th day of May, at which time the directors will make arrangements and preparations for the holding of a fair sometime in October next.

Providence permitting we shall be at this meeting, and hope there will be an effort made to secure a full attendance of the friends of agricultural improvement.

**OUR ADVERTISERS.**—We have been compelled this month to allow our advertisements to trench a little upon our reading matter. This we could not avoid without disappointing our customers. Our good friends may look upon the large increase of our advertising patronage as a sure indication that the Valley Farmer is becoming known and appreciated. That our readers may not lose any thing by our using a portion of our pages for advertising purposes, we shall in the June number publish eight pages extra, and possibly sixteen, and always in future whenever our advertisements exceed the prescribed limit of twelve pages, we will make it up to our readers by publishing more matter.

**MCCORMICK'S REAPER.**—Our enterprising friends, Messrs. Harvey, Walker & Co., of Belleville, Ill., advertise that they are agents for the sale of these well-known, well-tried, and well-approved machines. There is no agricultural implement manufactured which has had such an extensive sale throughout the west as McCormick's Reaper. Persons intending to purchase should lose no time in sending in their orders.

**STOCK FOR CALIFORNIA.**—The number of cattle, sheep and horses that will be driven across the Plains this year, will probably be quadruple that of any preceding season. We think however, that there will be a good market for all that may go. The Glasgow Times, says:

Mr. F. McLean, of Randolph, is now crossing at that place a drove of near five hundred cattle—all steers—for California. They are pronounced the best, out of five thousand head, that have passed up the river. They are mostly the product of Randolph county.

A company which were to leave Hannibal, Mo., on the 12th, for California, comprising two Eastern men and a few citizens, take out 1,500 head of sheep, 500 head of cattle, and 40 horses and mules.

The Genesee Farmer, in noticing the Shanghai breed of Chickens, says:

Of fifty raised last year by the editor, the smallest pullet weighed six pounds, and the largest cock ten pounds, at one year old. It is stated that they produce more eggs than any other, the hens generally laying forty to sixty before sitting, and frequently commence

laying in less than three weeks after hatching, at the same time taking care of their chickens until large enough to care for themselves. The young chickens are much more hardy than those of other breeds. The flesh is represented to be as good as that of any other kind.

### Extracts from Correspondents.

'I consider the Valley Farmer the best paper in the State, and am endeavoring to get all the subscribers I can for it, but I meet with a good deal of opposition by 'my daddy learned me to do so and so, and he knowed more than three papers.'

'I don't think I can do any more with my all-wise neighbors. The Valley Farmer is the first agricultural paper I ever read, and am exceedingly glad it came to hand. In the last copy of the Farmer I notice a piece entitled 'A hint to the farmer,' which I think should arrest every farmers attention. Hogs are much like people; when lazy they become sick and shabby, and then they are set down as a bad breed. The subscribers to the Valley Farmer here seem to be much pleased with it, and are becoming to see their true interest and the benefit of a paper suited to their profession. I wish all farmers would learn to get along in the world without being always in the dark. I have remarked that ignorance generally prevailed among farmers, and I may add, that what is worse, they don't wish to inform themselves. But may the Valley Farmer lead them out to see the ways of beauty.'

### Chilian Clover.

J. B. Mathews writes to the Warsaw, (Ill.) Weekly Express, as follows:

On the 27th of March, 1852, I sowed a little in a corner of my garden, and after it came up, carelessly transplanted it to another spot, where it remained without protection, either from the excessive heat and drought of last summer, or the wet and cold of last winter; and yet it grew luxuriantly last summer, producing seed abundantly, continuing green quite late in the winter, and stood without injury. It was the earliest vegetation that appeared this spring, and now would afford abundant pasturage. In the deep rich soil in which it grows, (the only circumstance especially favorable in its situation) its strong roots penetrate from twelve to eighteen inches deep, being very tenacious in their hold in the earth. It has a strong crown, throwing out numerous

rigorous foliage. In view of all its qualities, it seems to be the best adapted to our climate of any clover I have seen, and well worthy the attention of our farmers.

**A BANTER—SILVER PITCHER.**—Mr. Thomas Barker, of this county, proposes to exhibit at the Monroe county Agricultural Fair, to be held at Paris, the ensuing Autumn, provided five subscribers can be had, a fat bullock for a fifty dollar pitcher, to be awarded by said Agricultural Society, to best animal. If ten entries can be had a pair of pitchers. Entries to close the first of June. None but Missouri bred cattle to enter. Those desiring to enter can address George Glenn, Secretary of the Monroe Agricultural Society, Paris Mo.—*Paris Mercury.*

### Cure for Bee Moth Ravages.

The 'Mobile Tribune' says:—'Such of our readers as are engaged in the bee culture will be glad to learn that a remedy has been discovered which effectually prevents the ravages of the bee moth. The frequent and serious injury caused by the pestiferous insect has deterred many persons from entering into the business of raising bees, more especially in some localities the ravages have been as great as nearly to destroy both bees and honey. The plan is this:—split joints of cane through the centre and arrange them on the four sides of the hive, with the split side resting on the platform. The moth instead of depositing its egg under the edge of the hive will lay them under the split cane. From these depositories they may be removed and destroyed as often as necessary with little trouble. A friend informs us that he knows the plan has been tried and found entirely successful.'—*Scientific American.*

**A NEW WHEAT.**—A very singular discovery has lately been made in France, by M. Fabre, a gardener of Ayde. The herbægilops, heretofore considered worse than useless, grows abundantly on the shores of the Mediterranean. It produces a species of grain resembling wheat in form, but much smaller. In the year 1830 M. Fabre sowed a quantity of this grain, and he found the produce bore a close affinity to wheat; that produce he sowed next year, and the yield was still more like wheat. He went on sowing the produce of each year the succeeding year, until he has now succeeded in getting as fine a crop of wheat and of as good a quality as can be wished for.

Our next number will be peculiarly valuable to advertisers; and our friends are requested to send in their favors as early as the 20th of the present month.

### ST. LOUIS MARKET—WHOLESALE.

Saturday, May 7, 1853.

**HEMP**—per ton, \$98 to \$103.  
**FLOUR**—per bbl., good country brands, \$3 65 to \$3 75; choice brands, \$3 75; superfine city, \$3 80 to \$4 00; extra country and city, \$4 50 to \$5 00.  
**WHEAT**—per bushel, good to prime, 70 to 75 cts; choice, 75 to 80.  
**CORN**—per bushel, 35 to 42 cents sacks included;  
**OATS**—per bushel, 33 to 34 cents, sacks included.  
**TOBACCO**—per cwt. \$3 65 to \$6 95.  
**BARLEY**—per bushel, 33 cents.  
**MESS PORK**—per bbl., \$14 50.  
**PICKLED HAMS**—per lb., 8 to 9 cents.  
**LARD**—per lb., No. 1, 8 to 9 cents.  
**SUGAR**—per lb., common, 4 to 5 cents.  
**MOLASSES**—per gallon, 20 cents.  
**COFFEE**—per lb., Rio, 10 cents.  
**SALT**—per sack, G. A., \$1 30; T. 1 75 cts; Kanawha 25 cents per bushel.  
**PIO IRON**—per ton, cold blast, \$45.  
**BRAN**—60 to 65 cents per 100 lbs.  
**HAY**—per hundred, timothy, 60 to 65 cents.  
**BUTTER AND CHEESE**—Fair country butter, 11 to 12 cts; good to prime, 12 to 14 cts; choice Ohio roll, 16 to 17 cts. W. R. cheese 10c for prime.  
**DRIED FRUIT**—apples, \$1 25; peaches \$2 50 a \$2 75 per bushel.  
**GREEN APPLES**—\$1 50 to \$2 per bushel.  
**CASTOR BEANS**—per bushel, \$1 25 to 1 40.  
**WHITE BEANS**—per bushel, \$1 00.  
**BEEFWAX**—prime yellow 25c per lb.  
**FLAXSEED**—Prime seed is taken at 95a \$1 00 per bushel.  
**TALLOW**—No. 1 9 to 12c.  
**FEATHERS**—Prime new are held at 35a 37c per lb.  
**HIDES**—Sales of dry flint at 10c.

### Scraps from the Papers.

**MAMMOTH OX.**—An ox, said to weigh four thousand two hundred and forty-two pounds, is now on exhibition at Pittsfield, in the neighboring county of Pike. He is called 'Young America,' is nineteen hands high, measures ten feet four inches from the ears to the point of the rump, and is perfectly symmetrical in his proportions. His owner says he is only four years old. He was raised in old Macoupin—a county justly celebrated for its fine products.—*Alton Telegraph.*

**MISSOURI MINERALS.**—The Pilot Knob Iron Company of Missouri have sent to the World's Fair, at New York, two masses of ore of different kinds, weighing about six thousand pounds each. The ore of which these are specimens are said to be very rich, yielding about eighty per cent. of pure metal.

The manure applied to the soil of England, says the Agricultor, amounts to three hundred millions of dollars, being more than the value of the whole of its foreign commerce, yet the grateful soil yields back, with interest, all that is thus lavished upon it.

**WHEAT IN OHIO.**—According to official returns, Ohio has aggregated thirty millions of bushels of wheat for the last three years, of which sixteen millions are a surplus, after feeding all its own inhabitants.

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**—A law was passed at the recent session of the Legislature which provides that the bushel of the following articles, where no special agreement is made to the contrary, between the parties, shall be as follows, viz: field beans, fifty-six lbs.; castor beans, forty-six lbs.; clover seed, sixty lbs.; flax seed, fifty-four

lbs.; timothy seed, forty-two lbs.; hemp seed, forty lbs.; and stone coal, eighty pounds. The law goes into effect after the first day of April next.

A horse should not be fed with shelled corn or corn in the ear, when it can be had ground. Corn and cob meal, with, or without oats, is an excellent feed. It keeps a horse loose, makes his hair lie smooth, and makes a great improvement in his looks. Dry corn alone is too solid and heating, yet a small portion with oats may be safely fed.—*Northern Farmer.*

There are several kinds of millet. The common millet is a very good crop for soiling cattle. It grows like a reed, three or four feet high. It flourishes on any soil adapted to the culture of corn. A half bushel of seed is sufficient for an acre, sown broadcast, and early in the season, or at successive periods when wanted for soiling, or feeding green to cattle or horses. It should always be cut when in blossom, the saccharine matter being then in the stem.

*Orchard Grass* has, by some agricultural writers, been called 'cock's foot' grass. It is coarse and grows with great luxuriance on rich soils that are dry. It matures early, makes excellent hay, yields an abundance of seed, and is very permanent. It flowers in June on fertile soils. It is not profitable on low or wet lands, and when grown in rank patches cattle will not eat it. Time of sowing and manner of cultivating the same as other grasses.—*Northern Farmer.*

Cider will always turn to good vinegar if air and time is given; and recipes for a speedy change are fallacious, unless some poisonous ingredient be used. Leave the bung out of the barrel and take several sheets of brown paper dipped in molasses, which put into the barrel to form the 'mother'; then place the cider in the most airy place you can, say in an outer building in summer or in your cellar if you please, but the former situation will produce vinegar quicker than a cellar will.—*Northern Farmer.*

John G. Saxe says many witty things in rhyme, and not always without a moral. Here is one of his 'drives' at Proud Flesh:

Because you flourish in worldly affairs,  
Don't be haughty and put on airs;  
With insolent pride of station!  
Don't be proud and turn up your nose.  
At poorer people, in plainer clothes,  
But learn for the sake of mind's repose,  
That wealth's a bubble that comes and goes!  
And that all Proud Flesh, wherever it grows,  
Is subject to irritation.

**STRIKES.**—The papers abound in notices of strikes among mechanics and the laboring classes generally, in all the large cities. They seem to have discovered that concentrated action is the secret of success, and with a mutual good will, they bind themselves to support and stand by each other, till their common ends are gained.—Printers, machinists, carpenters, blacksmiths, carmen, hotel-waiters, pattern-makers, mill-wrights, painters, gilders, and operatives of every craft, have asked respectfully, but firmly an advance of wages. In a majority of cases, the demands of the strikes have been complied with, which shows that they have not been unreasonable, or greater

than the interests of the employers will warrant their meeting.

But as yet we have heard nothing about a strike among farmers for advanced prices, for a higher degree of culture, for mutual improvement, for the protection of their interests, or for the elevation of their standing as a class. Farmers are hopeful, they always desire the most favorable turn in the market, they watch the signs of the times with intense interest, but they do not start up in a body, and assert their rights and privileges. It is a general rule that when business is prosperous, the farmers prosper, but we query whether they do not meet with reverses which combined action would prevent. They should at least take care, while progress is the order of the day, that they do not stand still.—*Country Gentleman.*

**EXCELSIOR PIONEER ASSOCIATION.**—A body of young married men of this city, numbering about thirty, have associated themselves under this title for the purpose of forming a colony on the banks of Lake Minnetouka, in Minnesota Territory, nine miles from the Falls of St. Anthony, and twelve from the town of St. Paul's. This lake was discovered about a year since, and the lands have been vacated by the late treaty with the Sioux Indians. The climate is described as very healthy, the soil fertile, and scenery exceedingly beautiful. The location chosen has a frontage on the lake, which is navigable for forty miles. The object of the Association is to obtain for each of its members a farm of 160 acres, and a village lot of not less than one acre. The ground has not yet been surveyed, and it is the intention to 'squat.' One hundred members is the number required, and it is intended to start in June. A meeting of the members was held in Catham Hall, on Friday last, when the Chairman, (Mr. Bertram) who had been deputed to spy out this land of milk and honey, described the country, climate, resources and products, in terms of rapture. We desire every success to these and all other enterprising pioneers of the Great West.—*N. Y. Times.*

**SALE OF MR. WEBSTER'S CATTLE.**—The live stock of the late Hon. Daniel Webster, consisting of cattle of the Alderney, Devonshire, Hereford and Ayrshire breeds, sheep, horses, &c., was sold at auction by order of the executors, on Wednesday, at Marshfield. Many of the best specimens were bought in for the use of the farm, by James W. Paige, Esq., but yet the number sold for removal from the premises was large. The buyers were mainly rich experimental farmers, and they paid high prices. The horses which were given to Mr. Webster by his New York admirers, in 1850, were sold for about \$400, and were purchased by Col. Thompson.—*N. Y. Times.*

**FOWL AND FAIR.**—An agricultural author, talking of hen culture, says: 'Fowls that are penned up should have some kind of amusement—it is essential to their health. The kind of amusement is shelling their own corn, &c.' Upon which the Boston Post remarks that it is the same with the fair as with the fowl: Women who are penned up should have some kind of amusement, such as making their own bread, &c.

### Sales of Short Horns in England.

EDITORS OHIO CULTIVATOR:—Thinking your readers might be interested in some recent sales of Short Horns in England, particularly as some Americans were present and purchased, I send you a notice of them, from some recent English papers. One of these sales occurred at Farnley Hall, Yorkshire, and the bulls sold, (and bulls only were sold at this sale,) were the property of Mr. Faukes, who bred one or two of the bulls imported by the Ohio Importing Company last year, and sold with their whole importation at their sale at Chillicothe last year.

There were eleven bulls sold in all; one was lame, one was a sick calf, and one was not in the catalogue, and was an extra lot. These three sold at 22, 39, and 41 guineas. The pound sterling is 20 shillings, and is in our money precisely \$4.86 cts. and 6 mills. Now a pound sterling sent to England from here, will stand the remitter in fully \$5, including exchange, interest, &c., by the time he uses it. The guinea is one pound one shilling, or twenty-one shillings sterling, and is therefore \$5.25. In England Short Horns are always sold in guineas at public sales, and almost always at private sales, although occasionally in pounds.—The following are the sales at Mr. Faukes', excluding the three above mentioned:

Corporal Trim,	120 guineas, or \$630
Fitzgerald,	75 do 393
Fitzroy,	75 do 498
Beauclerc,	50 do 262
Gold Finder,	90 do 472
Master Charley,	100 do 525
Harry Lorrequer,	130 do 682
Fantachini,	60 do 325

In the account given of the sale in the Mark Lane Express, it is remarked, 'there were some gentlemen from the United States present.' As will be seen by the following extract from the same paper, there were purchasers from America:

'On Thursday, the 17th March, the herd of short horned cattle belonging to Mark Faviell, Esq., of Pontefract, were sold, and brought good prices. The highest price was 105 guineas (\$551.25) for Wild Eyes Jenny, a two years old heifer, purely bred from the far-famed stock of the late Mr. Bates, of Kirkleavington; she was purchased by Mr. Aitchison Alexander, who was also a spirited buyer at Farnley Hall, (Mr. Faukes', the day before,) and who has recently purchased specimens from several of the choicest herds in England, intended for his estates in Kentucky, U. S. There were also some other gentlemen purchasing at both sales, for Ohio and New York.'

In a private letter just received from England by myself, it is observed, 'that short horns are commanding increased prices, and the best breeders are loth to sell anything but bulls, and if they will sell females at all, will do it only at good prices. Many of the first breeders decline to sell females at all. Mr. R. Booth will not sell any more females; so that there will be no chance of buying one there.' Yours, &c., A. STEVENS.

New York, April 7, 1853.

**A Horse's Foot.**—The foot of the horse is one of the most ingenious and singular pieces

of mechanism in the animal structure, and scarcely yielding to any irregularity and complexity of parts, under simplicity of design. The hoof contains a series of vertical and thin laminae of horn, so numerous as to amount to about 500, and forming a complete lining to it. Into this are fitted as many laminae, belonging to the coffin bone, which sets are lasting and adherent. The edges of a quire of paper, inserted leaf by leaf into one another, will convey a sufficient idea of this arrangement. Thus the weight of the animal is supported by as many elastic springs as there are laminae in all the feet, amounting to about 4,000, distributed in the most secure manner, since every spring is acted upon in an oblique direction. Such is the contrivance for the safety of an animal destined to carry greater weight than that of its own body, and to carry those also under the hazard of heavy shocks.

McCulloch.

### DISCOVERIES IN ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY.

The undersigned proposes publishing immediately, by subscription, a work under the above title.

All creation, whether mental or material, is governed by fixed laws. To act successfully in unison with these laws or be benefited by them their full extent, we must understand them and such cause as may vary or interfere with their operation. To select the best breed of animals we must be in possession of such physiological and phenological signs or indications as will not mislead and are too seldom recognized. The best animals depend much on the best crosses. The knowledge of these crosses would be far more valuable to this Commonwealth, or any other, than any agricultural knowledge now proposed that will cost no more money. Our nation would be benefited annually more than a hundred million of dollars, animals would be less dangerous to man and more easily controlled. When the above knowledge with reference to the horse is acquired, it is comparatively easy to apply it to other animals. To have a superior horse, certain qualities are indispensable, such as action, speed, strength, health, thrift and aptitude to fatten, fine wind and bottom, quietude and docility. If any one of these be wanting, the horse fails short of being a very valuable animal. The form of the body and limbs may and do vary, but if you look closely to the physiological and phenological action of the animal as developed in the book, you may determine more certainly their worth. You may also learn what gait he has or can acquire, and whether best adapted to work the saddle or the race course; also his distance and the course or track to suit him.

The diseases of animals will also be treated of, whether hereditary, idiopathic or symptomatic; the origin of which is unknown to the mass of men, whose treatment of disease is generally guess-work, terminating in suffering and death. Much matter contained in this work, such as the qualities of animals, &c., so far as can be, will be illustrated with life-like engravings, conveying a vast amount of instruction, through the eye, in a short time. There will be from fifty to one hundred accurate engravings of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs &c.

The work will be published as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers have been obtained to justify it, and on a large clear print, and well bound in cloth, will be offered to subscribers at the moderate price of \$5. It will be the only work of the kind extant, and for subscribers only.

Copies of this work will be delivered to subscribers in clubs of five at \$4 per copy. Single copies at the regular price.

Subscribers direct to Lexington, Ky.

April 1853.

For testimony refer to.

DENTON OFFUTT.

Prof. B. W. Dudley, Lexington, Ky.

Prof. J. Cobb, M. D., Louisville, Ky.

Prof. L. P. Yandell, M. D., Louisville, Ky.

Hon. Henry Clay, Ashland, Ky.

## THE FAMILY IDLE.

Conducted by

Mrs. MARY ABBOTT.

## Benefit of Out-door Exercise on the Mind.

Rise early in the morning, while the sparkling dew is on every leaf and flower, and as you weed *this* and water *that* plant, your mind will become contemplative, and you will ask yourselves many questions. Why was not every plant made green like the grass? Why such pleasant odors wafted by every breeze from the whole vegetable kingdom? Why any odors, or if any, why pleasant? Why should the trees grow so beautiful and have such luxuriant foliage? Why do the birds, as beautiful and various as the flowers, sing so melodiously among the branches? Why are these things so charming? Your mind will then go 'from nature up to nature's God, and you will be led to exclaim, 'In wisdom hast Thou made them all!' You will think of their Creator as *your* father and *your* God. You will see in some measure his great goodness to his children. He made the beauties of nature for the mind of man to read. He that made us to love the beauties of nature has placed them all around us in every form, variety and hue. They keep our minds from becoming melancholy and sad. They make us grateful when we think they were made for us by our heavenly father to beautify and light up this earth our home, while we are pilgrims in it. If you will go forth from your chamber to field or garden and busy yourselves, it will drive away sadness, and make you grateful, cheerful and happy; and you will be strengthened both in body and mind, for out-door exercise is good for the *mind*. It will keep you from despondency and fear of want. As you nurse and tend the beautiful flowers, you will be led to think that he that clothes the flowers of the field will much more clothe you. Employment in the field or garden will give you trust and confidence in your Creator. You will feel that there is one great and good being who cares for field and flower, and will care much more for you. You will think of the words of our Saviour:—

'Therefore I say unto you, take no thought

for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you.'

When you walk out at even-tide to meditate as Isaac did, and see the glorious handywork of God, under your feet, and around and above you, and see the starry heavens which God has made, you will exclaim—

The spacious firmament on high,  
With all the blue ethereal sky,  
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,  
Their great Original proclaim.

The unwearied sun from day to day,  
Does his Creator's power display,  
And publishes to every land,  
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And nightly to the listening earth,  
Repeats the story of her birth;—

While all the stars that round her burn,  
And all the planets in their turn,  
Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all  
Move round the dark terrestrial ball—  
What though nor real voice nor sound  
Amid their radiant orbs be found—

In reason's ear they all rejoice,  
And utter forth a glorious voice;  
Forever singing as they shine,  
'The hand that made us is divine.'

Out-door exercise and reading the book of nature will direct your mind to the book of revelation, where you will learn that God has made every thing beautiful in nature for man, to satisfy his wants, and has also formed a plan for his redemption, and how he can have a promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come; how if he 'seeks first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things shall be added to him.'

He that cannot forgive others, breaks down the bridge over which he must pass himself; for every man hath need to be forgiven.

**MISSOURI INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.**—We visited to-day the Blind Institution which has lately commenced in our city, and were greatly surprised at the progress the scholars have made in so short a time. The pupils are taught the same branches that are taught in ordinary schools; besides many useful employments, such as basket and brush making and other trades. The work done there is neat and well-finished. The females learn to sew and do some ornamental work. Some of the scholars sing and play well on the piano. We are truly glad there is such an institution in our midst. When we were quite young we visited a blind institution in Boston, and what we saw there made a lasting impression upon our mind. We hope such institutions may be established all over the Western Valley. If we had a blind child we should send him to such a school at any sacrifice. The superintendent we should judge to be a man well qualified for his station, mild, affable and gentle towards his pupils. We could say much more in favor of this institute, but have no room in this number.

**EDUCATION.**—Every boy should have his head heart and hand educated. By the proper education of the heart, he will be taught to love what is evil, foolish and wrong. And by proper education of the hand, he will be enabled to supply his wants, to add to his comforts, and to assist those around him. The highest objects of a good education are to reverence and obey God, and to love and serve mankind. Everything that helps us in attaining these objects is of great value, everything that hinders us is comparatively worthless. When wisdom reigns in the head, and love in the heart, the man is ever ready to do good; order and peace reign around, and sin and sorrow are almost unknown.—*Blackwood.*

#### ELLEN'S HALF DOLLAR.

Ellen Villers was the orphan niece of a wealthy farmer, who had commenced the world with no capital but industry. Fortune smiled upon his labors, and he was soon able to purchase for himself a snug farm, upon which he built a neat cottage, and went on year after year, adding tract after tract to his wide domains, until he could look for miles around on his own possessions. A little village reared its head amidst a beautiful cluster of elm trees, and owned him as its master, and was also known by his name.

He had, in early life, selected one from

amongst his neighbors' daughters with whom to divide his cares and share his joys; and hand in hand they had journeyed on through life's tedious way, so as not to perceive the vacancy around them. But at the age of fifty, Mr. Granger, found that, notwithstanding the bounteous gifts of Providence, there was a void in his breast; he had no offspring to gather round his knee at dewy eve, no lisping prattler to greet his return.

However, he was not long left to mourn over his lonely state; the death of an only sister, at this period, gave to his charge the orphan Ellen, and the old man entered, as it were, upon a new life.

There was no pain that Ellen's presence could not mitigate, no grief she could not assuage. No fears or threats could alarm him save the fear of losing Ellen, the idol of his hopes, the centre of his attractions.

Merry Christmas paid its annual visit to the young folks, and the corner allotted to Ellen for her playhouse groaned beneath the weight of the tokens deposited there by numerous friends for the purpose of delighting the fancy of the child, or gaining the favor of the wealthy uncle. Among the rest of the gifts was a bright half-dollar, which she turned over and over, and laid it in her work-box.

Christmas sports and pastimes over, the toys and playthings lost their attractions, and Ellen sighed for something new on which to bestow her attention.

She became pleased with a pretty doll which she saw one of her playmates have, and expressed a desire to have one, as she said it cost only half-a-dollar, and she could purchase it at her own expense.

The doll was accordingly purchased, and Ellen called to receive her change and take good care of it until she needed something else.

"O, my beautiful doll and my half dollar too!" exclaimed Ellen in surprise, her beautiful eyes beaming with delight towards her no less delighted uncle.

Some months after this, a neighbor called on Mr. Granger to solicit aid in relieving a family who had been reduced to beggary by the intemperance of the husband; but aid was sternly refused, as the old gentleman said he had but little idea of wasting his substance on drunkenness and idleness.

The friend, unwilling to be put off, continued to plead for the starving wife and helpless children.

Ellen, who had been playing behind her uncle, was an attentive observer of all that was passing, and skipping gaily from her hiding place, bounded off with the swiftness of a fawn, and presently returning, put into the old gentleman's hand her shining half dollar. "Take this," said she, and buy them bread. See," she

continued, 'I have all I want and half a dollar too.'

'Sweet child,' said the gentleman, taking her in his arms, 'you are destined to be a blessing to those to whom you are related.'

'Take your money, child,' said the uncle, and be assured it has purchased food for the hungry. Your uncle has all he wants, and wherewith to relieve the distressed.'

The chilly blasts of winter had begun to whistle around the dwellings of the poor. The frugal and thrifty farmer was making ample provision for his winter's store. And Mr. Granger, exact to a letter, where his own interest was concerned, looked carefully over his rent-roll, and found some of his tenants at Grangerville in arrears. Bills were accordingly sent in, with strict injunctions that the money should be forthcoming.

On the following morning a poor widow presented herself before her landlord, and with streaming eyes, begged for a little longer indulgence.

But Mr. Granger, not remarkable for lenity, and wearied with importunities, declared his intention of seizing her cow if she did not in a few days, settle the claim.

The poor woman returned home in great distress, as she well knew she could not raise the money, and her cow, which furnished food for her children, must be lost.

In the evening, Mr. Granger took little Ellen on his knee, as was his custom before retiring, but the child did not return his caresses with her usual warmth, which led him to fear she was not well. Upon being interrogated, she replied she was perfectly well.

After having sat some time upon his lap in deep silence, she looked up kindly in his face and said, 'Uncle you have a great many cows, haven't you?'

'Yes, my child,' replied Mr. Granger; 'I've twelve as fine ones, in my pasture as ever pail went under.'

'Then why, Uncle,' resumed the child, 'will you take Mrs. Green's cow, who has but one?'

'Oh!' said Mr. Granger, 'I do not want the cow; I shall sell it for the rent that is due for the house she lives in.'

'Oh! then Uncle,' said the delighted child, 'I will buy it, for you know I have a whole half-dollar.'

'And what do you want with a cow, my darling?'

'Oh! I should give it to poor Mrs. Green,' again, said Ellen; 'and then you know little Willie and Mary would not have to eat their bread alone and go to bed, but can have their nice, rich cream and milk for their suppers. I did feel so sorry when you talked of taking their cow and leaving them nothing but their dry bread!'

A tear was seen to glisten in the old man's

eye; he sat for some moment absorbed in deep thought.

'Let me learn a lesson,' he said, 'from this child. I have enough, and more than enough; this poor woman has but a scanty subsistence; and yet I would take from her to my well filled purse. I have toiled all my life like a slave, and have been too narrow-hearted to enjoy the blessings that I have so diligently toiled for. I will from this moment close my account and open wide my heart.'

'Ellen my child,' he said, 'your half-dollar has bought the widow's cow.'

And seating himself at the writing-desk, he wrote Mrs. Green a receipt in full, and dispatched a servant with it, that the poor woman might sleep comfortably that night; and the next day several poor families in Grangerville received the same treatment; and the old man often says that Ellen's half dollar has purchased for him more real enjoyment than all the money he ever had.—*Congregationalist*.

### Obeying Orders.

'Come, what shall we do this afternoon, John?' said two boys, stopping before the front yard of a neighbor's house, where one of their school-mates was standing.

It was Wednesday afternoon. To go a fishing, or a raspberrying, or up to the mills, or over to Back Cove—they could not decide which of all these would be, on the whole, the pleasantest. At last it was agreed to go over to Back Cove, which was a strip of land running out into the sea, where there were trees, rocks, and water, cake and ale-houses, and one or two low taverns.

Off the boys started, with no clear notions of what they meant to do—only it was Wednesday afternoon, and they meant to make the most of it. After reaching the Cove they amused themselves with skipping stones on the water, carving their names on the trees, looking about here and there, until they came in sight of a bowling-alley, a noted gambling-house, where a great deal of wickedness had been carried on. There were several carriages here; many boys and men around, smoking and lounging; while the alley was full of customers.

'Come, let's go to the alley,' said one of the boys; 'it will be fun. Father would not like me to go; but I suppose he never need know it. Let's go, I say. Come John; come Frank!'

'No,' answered John, 'I am not going; I'll have nothing to do with any such places.'

'That's great!' cried the boy who proposed going; 'why, you are not so easily hurt as all that comes to, are you? That's all fudge. Come, boys: come, Frank; come John.'

Frank went forward.

'It will be no harm to be a looker on, and father will never find it out.'

John stopped. The others looked behind, and saw he was not following.

'Come!' they both shouted; 'come! Don't be womanish!'

'Can't!' shouted John back again; 'can't break orders.'

'What special orders have you got?' they asked, looking round. 'I'm sure your aunt never told you not to go.'

'I've got orders, not to go there; orders that I dare not disobey.'

'It's all nonsense,' said the boys; you need not try to make us believe anybody has been giving you orders not to go to the alley. Come show 'em to us if you can, show us your orders.'

John took a red wallet from his pocket, which he opened and pulled out a neatly folded paper.

'It's here,' he said, unfolding the paper, and showing it to the boys.

They took it, and Frank read aloud:

'Enter not into the paths of the wicked and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away.'

'Yes,' said John, 'it is nothing more nor less than the word of God; it is his order. This was almost the first verse I ever learned; and I do not know how many times my mother used to repeat it to me before she died; and when I have a pen in my hand, and am going to write without thinking, this verse always comes uppermost; so I always keep it with me, and I've always minded it. I minded it when I was a little boy, and I mean to now I am older. And so, boys, when anybody asks me to go to bad or doubtful places, as I expect this is, I've got an answer for them—*my orders forbid it*. 'Go not in the way of evil men; avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it.' There's no mistake, you see; so if you go to the alley, I go home.'

This is, indeed, a manly stand. Would that every boy who knows the right—and few are ignorant of it in these days—could steadfastly maintain it; for it is not so much ignorance as indecision that ruins so many. Take John's motto; learn its full meaning; impress it upon your mind; carry it about you; for it is a warning and command of the Holy Scripture: 'Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not into the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.' Prov. iv. 14, 15.

### Boys, Hear This.

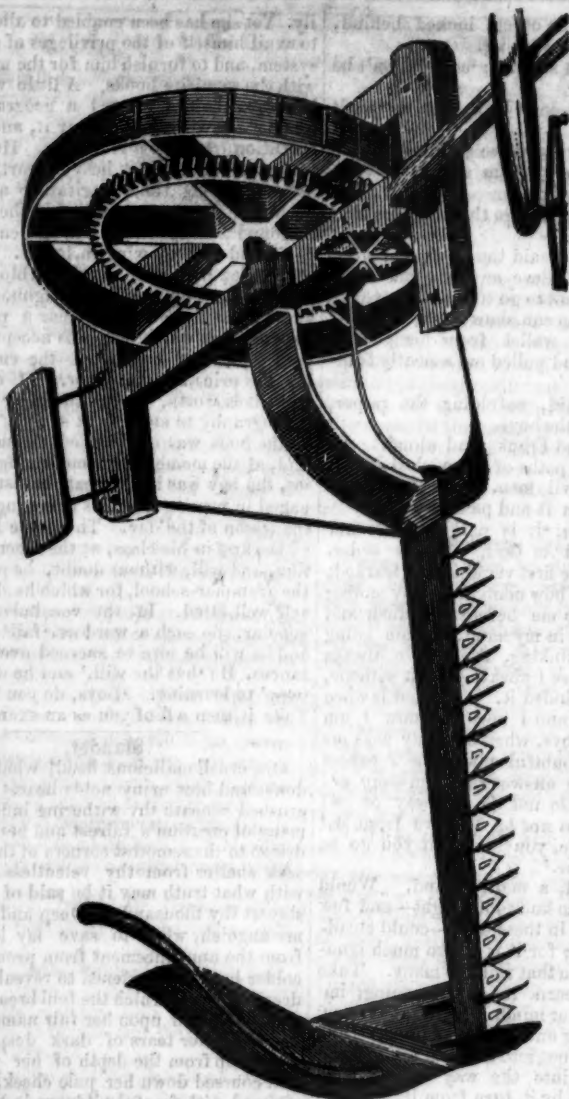
'Where there is a will, there is a way.'—This proverb was forcibly illustrated a short time since, by an Irish boy, about ten years old, belonging to one of the 'Intermediate' schools in this city. The lad had the misfortune to be fatherless, and as in many similar cases, it has been found close work for the mother to get along with the support of her fam-

ily. Yet she has been enabled to allow her son to avail himself of the privileges of our school system, and to furnish him for the most part, with the requisite books. A little while ago, however, the boy wanted a geography, and had not the wherewith to buy it, and the deprivation troubled him sorely. He went to bed at night with a heavy heart, and lay awake a long time, cogitating as to what should be done. On waking in the morning, he found a deep snow had fallen, and the cold wind was blowing furiously. Catching at the idea 't is an ill wind that blows nobody good,' he got up, ran to a neighbor's house, and offered his service to clear a path about the premises which offer was accepted. When the work was completed the employer asked the price for the labor. 'I don't know what it is worth,' replied the lad, 'but I want a geography to study in at school.' The cost of the book was ascertained, the money paid, and, at the moment of commencing the exercises, the boy was in his seat, industriously engaged in poring over his new geography, for the lesson of the day. This same lad appeared the first in his class, at the recent examination, and will, without doubt, be promoted to the grammar-school, for which he showed himself well fitted. In the vocabulary of this scholar, no such a word as 'fail' is known, and he will be sure to succeed over all hindrances. He 'has the will,' and he will find the 'way' to learning. 'Boys, do you hear that? Take it then all of you as an example.

### Slander.

Oh, cruel! malicious fiend! what hast thou done, and how many noble hearts hast thou crushed beneath thy withering influence! How many of creation's fairest and best have been driven to the remotest corners of the earth to seek shelter from thy relentless hand, and with what truth may it be said of thee, thou slayer thy thousands! Deep and bitter was my anguish, when to save my lovely friend from the announcement from prouder lips and colder hearts, I hastened to reveal to her the dreadful words which the foul breath of calumny had heaped upon her fair name, and marked the bitter tears of dark despair as they welled up from the depth of her pure heart, and coursed down her pale cheek, as she exclaimed with fearful wildness in her dark eye, 'My God, this is too much!' And my soul shuddered, for I new too well that her highest aspirations and dearest hopes were laid low. And as I saw her shrink from the scorn of a heartless world, and felt that her tender heart was breaking, then, oh, slander, did I curse thee in the bitterness of my heart; then did I wish that thy poisonous tongue might turn back and disgorge its venom upon thy own repulsive head, and crush it forever!—*Eastern Cult.*

# KETCHUM'S PATENT MOWING MACHINE.



Manufactured for and sold by A. LEE & CO., at the  
Great Western Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,

No. 14, Main, between Market and Chesnut streets,  
ST. LOUIS, MO.

[See bottom of next page.

This justly celebrated machine has been steadily advancing in public favor, for its simplicity, durability, and efficiency—and it has settled the question beyond a doubt that grass can be cut by Horse Power: for, during the past season, Five Hundred of these Machines were sold, and universally approved of by those who used them. Farmers were daily in the habit of cutting from ten to fifteen acres per day, with ordinary driving. It leaves the grass evenly spread over the ground, requiring no turning to cure properly. There is an actual saving, by the use of this Machine, over hand labor, of \$13 per day. They are so very compact that one of them can be easily carried in an ordinary one-horse wagon, and so very simple that it requires no machinest to put it together, as there are but two bolts, beside the pole bolts, to be secured, to have the machine ready for use, and which does not require over ten minutes time. They weigh about 750 lbs., and can be worked by any boy who can manage a team.